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# Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields

## Part I: Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

## Note by the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report updates documents E/1996/97 and E/1996/97/Add.1, E/2001/INF/3 and E/2008/INF/3 and E/2008/INF/3/Corr.1. The current document (part I) provides information on the establishment, terms of reference, membership and composition, term of office of members, reporting procedure, frequency of meetings and working methods of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and related bodies in the economic, social and related fields. Part II of the document will include updated information on subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, as well as information on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

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# I. Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1996/41 of 26 July 1996, which it adopted pursuant to its consideration of the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive document compiling information on the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies and to submit it to the Council. Consequently, a report entitled "Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields" (E/1996/97) was presented to the Council at its resumed substantive session of 1996. An addendum to that report (E/1996/97/Add.1) provided further information on the working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups of the Council. An updated version of the report was submitted to the Council in a note by the Secretary-General at its substantive session of 2001 (E/2001/INF/3).

2. To reflect changes made to the number, structure and terms of reference of the subsidiary bodies and their working methods in the context of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields carried out by the Council and the General Assembly, in particular with the aim of achieving the goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] an updated note was issued in document E/2008/INF/3.

3. Since the issuance of that note, subsidiary bodies have continued to adjust their methods of work. In addition, a number of landmark documents have been adopted, including General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 entitled "The future we want"; resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 entitled "Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)"; and resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which have resulted in changes to the intergovernmental machinery. The present note (part I) provides information on the status of the subsidiary bodies of the Council in the economic, social and related fields. It is intended as a reference tool, providing in a readily accessible format information on the intergovernmental and expert machinery in these fields and thereby supporting the intergovernmental mechanisms in the implementation of their respective mandates and goals.

4. For each subsidiary body, information is given concerning its establishment and terms of reference, membership and composition, the term of office of its members, its reporting procedure and the frequency of its sessions. Election of bureaux, multi-year work programmes and working methods are also described, as applicable. Section I contains information on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, which have been grouped, on the basis of their institutional status, into seven categories: (a) functional commissions, (b) regional commissions, (c) standing committees, (d) ad hoc committees, (e) expert bodies composed of governmental experts, (f) expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity and (g) related bodies.

5. Information on the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields will be included in part II of the present document, to be issued separately. Part II will also include information on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the multi-stakeholder forum on science,

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to Assembly resolutions 66/288, 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 69/313 and 70/1.

# II. Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

## A. Functional commissions

### 1. Statistical Commission

Website: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/

*Terms of reference*

6. The Statistical Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 8 (I) of 16 and 18 February 1946. Its terms of reference were set out in resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) of 21 June 1946 and 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971.

7. In accordance with resolutions 8 (I) and 8 (II), the Commission assists the Council:

(a) In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;

(b) In the coordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies;

(c) In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;

(d) In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;

(e) In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.

8. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 1566 (L), the Council considered that the ultimate goal of the work of the Commission should be the achievement of an integrated system in the collection, data processing and dissemination of international statistics by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system with special regard to the requirements of reviewing and appraising economic and social progress, taking into account the needs of the developing countries.

*Membership and composition*

9. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1147 (XLI) of 4 August 1966, the Statistical Commission consists of one representative from each of 24 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Five members from African States;

(b) Four members from Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven members from Western European and other States;

(e) Four members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council.

*Term of office*

10. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 591 (XX) of 5 August 1955).

*Reporting procedure*

11. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Frequency of meetings*

12. The Commission meets annually for four working days (Council resolution 1999/8 of 26 July 1999).

*Multi-year programme of work*

13. The Commission adopts annually a multi-year programme of work relating to the three subsequent sessions. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission approved its programme of work for the period 2018–2022.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

14. The Bureau is normally elected at the first meeting of the session. The Bureau serves for two years. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution — a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission. The position of Chair of the Commission rotates on a geographical basis in principle. There is, at the same time, an understanding among members of the Commission that competence and familiarity with the issues being considered at the session are the most important criteria to be taken into account.

15. To ensure continuity, it is the Commission's normal practice to elect one of the Vice-Chairs of the outgoing Bureau as Chair of the incoming Bureau.

16. The Bureau of the Commission plays a proactive role in the preparations for the session, including by formulating its draft programme of work and facilitating the communication with members of the respective regional groups on matters related to the work of the session.

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

17. There is an understanding among members of the Commission that action on draft proposals and texts should be taken without a vote.

18. There are no Chair's summaries as such.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

19. It has been the practice of the Commission for the Rapporteur to prepare the texts of the draft report in consultation with the Secretariat and members of the Commission. Informal consultations as such do not take place.

*Role of the Secretariat*

20. The Secretariat traditionally assists the members of the Commission by undertaking both substantive and technical support roles. The substantive secretariat assists delegations in the drafting of texts, at their request, assisting them during

informal consultations on draft resolutions, providing information on various substantive matters as well as facilitating the application of United Nations editorial practice. The technical secretariat is responsible for the organizational and procedural aspects of support to the work of the Commission, including through the provision of advice to the presiding officer and the Bureau on the rules of procedure and past practice, and in the drafting of the report of the session.

*Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme*

21. The Commission holds a general discussion, sequentially, on each agenda item.

*Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions*

22. It is not the practice of the Commission to hold panel discussions or question-and-answer sessions.

## 2. Commission on Population and Development

Website: www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/index.shtml

*Terms of reference*

23. The Population Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946. Its original terms of reference are set out in Council resolution 150 (VII) of 10 August 1948.

24. In paragraph 24 of its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development (see also Economic and Social Council decision 1995/209 of 10 February 1995). In paragraph 23 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided that it, the Council and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] and that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

25. In its resolution 2016/25 of 27 July 2016, the Council affirmed that the Commission would contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within its existing mandate, and that the contribution of the Commission should reflect the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as their interlinkages.

26. According to the Commission's terms of reference, which were amended and endorsed by the Council in paragraph 3 of its resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995, the Commission is to assist the Council by:

(a) Arranging for studies and advising the Council on:

(i) Population issues and trends, including determinants and consequences;

(ii) Integrating population and development strategies;

(iii) Population and related development policies and programmes;

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

(iv) Provision of population assistance, upon request, to developing countries and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition;

(v) Any other population and development questions on which either the principal or the subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies may seek advice;

(b) Monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the national, regional and global levels, identifying reasons for success and failure, and advising the Council thereon. Such considerations shall include:

(i) Adopting a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme, culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Programme of Action. That work programme, inter alia, will provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(ii) Monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action through periodic reports on population trends and policies, population programmes and population and related development activities;

(iii) Reviewing on a regular basis the flow of financial resources and the funding mechanisms to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action;

(iv) Undertaking a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and in implementing its recommendations, and reporting its findings to the Council;

(v) Maintaining and enhancing public attention and support for the implementation of the Programme of Action, through the dissemination of its monitoring, review and assessment reports in a concise and clear format;

(vi) Considering the reports of the meetings of inter-agency mechanisms established by the Secretary-General to ensure coordination, collaboration and harmonization in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(vii) Considering reports on the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the Programme of Action, in accordance with the arrangements adopted by the Economic and Social Council for consultation with those organizations;

(c) Providing appropriate recommendations to the Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(d) Reviewing the findings of research and analysis pertaining to the interrelationship between population and development at the national, regional and global levels and advising the Council thereon.

*Membership and composition*

27. In accordance with Council decision 1995/320 of 12 December 1995, the Commission consists of one representative from each of 47 States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Twelve members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Five members from Eastern European States;

(d) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Ten members from Western European and other States.

28. In its decision 88 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, the Council decided that, in accordance with established procedures, the Secretary-General should consult with the Governments elected to serve on the Commission about the nomination of their representatives, in order to ensure a balance in representation of the various disciplines covered by the work of the Commission.

29. In order to maintain close liaison with other bodies concerned with population issues, the Commission invites representatives from other functional commissions to take part in its proceedings without the right to vote.

*Term of office*

30. In its decision 2005/213 of 31 March 2005, the Council decided that the term of office of members of the Commission would be for four regular sessions of the Commission, to begin immediately after the conclusion of the Commission's regular session held after 1 January, following their election by the Council, and to end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January, following the election of the States that were to succeed them as members, unless they were re-elected.

*Reporting procedure*

31. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Frequency of meetings*

32. The Commission meets annually (General Assembly resolution 49/128 and Council decision 1995/209), usually for five working days.

*Multi-year programme of work*

33. In its decision 2017/260 of 7 July 2017, the Council decided that, starting with its fifty-third session, in 2020, the Commission would adopt a four-year cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as part of a multi-year work programme aligned with the main theme of the Council and with the thematic focus of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

34. The Bureau of the Commission is elected at the first meeting of each session, which is held immediately following the closure of the preceding session for the sole purpose of the election (Commission decision 2004/2 and Council decision 2005/213). The members of the Bureau hold office for one year. In order to ensure continuity, efforts have been made to elect at least one member of the previous Bureau to the incoming one.

35. At its thirty-seventh session, held in 2004, the Commission decided to establish a system of regular geographical rotation for the chairmanship of the Commission (Commission decision 2004/2; see also its decision 2005/2).

36. The Bureau of the Commission, in particular the Chair, plays a proactive role in the preparations for the session, including through briefings on organizational and substantive matters, consultations with Member States and oversight in the selection of invited speakers. To ensure the transparency of these preparations, minutes of Bureau meetings are prepared and shared by Bureau members with their respective regional groups.

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

37. There is no formal or informal agreement that action should be taken by consensus. The Commission takes action through decisions and resolutions.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

38. The Commission holds informal consultations on all texts under consideration.

*Role of the Secretariat*

39. The Secretariat traditionally assists the members of the Commission by providing substantive and technical secretariat support. The substantive secretariat assists the Chair in the drafting of texts, assists facilitators and delegations during informal consultations on draft resolutions or decisions and provides information and advice on substantive matters. The technical secretariat is responsible for the organizational and procedural aspects of support to the Commission's work, including through the provision of advice to the presiding officer and the Bureau on the rules of procedure and past practice, and in the drafting of the report on the session.

*Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme*

40. Two sub-items are included under the item on the general debate, one focusing on actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action at the global, regional and national levels, and one focusing on the special theme of the Commission (Council resolution 2016/25).

*Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions*

41. The Commission holds panel discussions and engages in question-and-answer sessions.

### 3. Commission for Social Development

Website: www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division.html

*Terms of reference*

42. The Social Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 10 (II) of 21 June 1946. As a result of a comprehensive reappraisal of the role of the Commission, the Council, in resolution 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966, renamed it the Commission for Social Development in order to clarify its role as a preparatory body of the Council in the whole range of social development policy.

43. In accordance with Council resolutions 10 (II) and 1139 (XLI), the terms of reference of the Commission are:

(a) To advise the Council on social questions of a general character and give particular attention to policies designed to promote social progress, to the establishment of social objectives and programme priorities and to social research in areas affecting social and economic development;

(b) To advise the Council on practical measures that may be needed in the social field, including questions of social welfare, community development, urbanization, housing and social defence;

(c) To advise the Council on measures needed for the coordination of activities in the social field and for the recording and exchange of experience among Governments in the formulation and execution of social development policies;

(d) To advise the Council on such international agreements and conventions on any of these matters, as may be required, and on their execution;

(e) To report to the Council on the extent to which the recommendations of the United Nations in the field of social policy are being carried out;

(f) To advise the Council also on vital social problems in respect of which action or recommendations may be required either by the Council itself or by the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 2035 (XX).

44. In its resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995, the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental process in the follow-up to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.[4]

45. In its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, on the follow-up to the Summit and the future role of the Commission, the Council added to its terms of reference, deciding that the Commission should assist it in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and advise it thereon, and should:

(a) Improve international understanding on social development through, inter alia, the exchange of information and experience;

(b) Integrate, within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit, consideration of issues relating to the situation of social groups, including a review of relevant United Nations programmes of action related to such groups, and consideration of other sectoral issues;

(c) Identify emerging issues affecting social development that require urgent consideration, and make substantive recommendations thereon;

(d) Make recommendations regarding social development to the Council;

(e) Elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering recommendations of the Summit;

(f) Identify issues requiring improved system-wide coordination, taking into account substantive inputs from different organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the contributions of other functional commissions concerned, in order to assist the Council in its coordination functions;

(g) Maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

46. The Commission also has the primary responsibility for the follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly[5] and serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

development issues and in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system (see Council resolution 2018/3 of 17 April 2018).

47. The Commission reports on social aspects related to the annual theme of the Council (see Council resolution 2016/6 of 2 June 2016). It also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within its existing mandate, by supporting the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, bearing in mind the need to reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, while engaging all relevant stakeholders and feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the high-level political forum, according to the organizational arrangements established by the General Assembly and the Council (see Council resolution 2018/3).

*Membership and composition*

48. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, the Commission is composed of 46 members elected by the Council from among the States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Twelve members from African States;

(b) Ten members from Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Five members from Eastern European States;

(e) Ten members from Western European and other States.

In accordance with Council resolution 1139 (XLI), section IV, paragraph 1, the States elected to the Commission should nominate candidates who hold key positions in the planning or execution of national social development policies or other persons qualified to discuss the formulation of social policies in more than one sector of development.

*Term of office*

49. In its decision 2002/210 of 13 February 2002, on improvement of the work of the Commission, the Council decided that the term of office of the members of the Commission would be for four regular sessions of the Commission, to begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the Commission's regular session held after 1 January following their election by the Council, and to end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January following the election of the States that were to succeed them as members of the Commission, unless they were re-elected, and that, in that context, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962 would apply only to the substantive part of the sessions of the Commission.

*Reporting procedure*

50. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Frequency of meetings*

51. The Commission meets annually (Council resolution 1996/7), usually for eight working days.

*Programme of work*

52. In its resolution 2005/11, the Council decided that in order to fulfil its mandate, beginning with its forty-fifth session, the work of the Commission would be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, which would include a review segment and a policy segment and that the Commission should strengthen the connection between its review of implementation and its policy recommendations. The Commission adopted a theme for each review and policy cycle through its fifty-sixth session, held in 2018.

53. In its resolution 2018/3, the Council decided that the Commission would consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Council also requested the Commission to adopt a multi-year programme of work at the fifty-seventh session (in 2019) to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation while taking into consideration, in selecting its theme, the programme of work of the Council and the 2030 Agenda, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council system and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

54. In its decision 2002/210, the Council decided that the Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council. The members of the Bureau are elected for a term of office of two years (Council resolution 2016/6).

55. There is no established practice for rotation of members of the Bureau other than that based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

56. There is no formal agreement that action should be taken by consensus. While the Commission endeavours to take action by consensus, there are occasions when votes may be requested.

57. The Commission normally takes action through the adoption of draft resolutions and draft decisions. In its resolution 2018/3, the Council decided that the Commission should propose an action-oriented resolution under its annual priority theme with recommendations to the Council.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

58. It has been the practice of the Commission to hold informal consultations on all draft proposals.

*Role of the Secretariat*

59. The Secretariat traditionally assists the members of the Commission by providing substantive and technical secretariat support. The substantive secretariat assists delegations in the drafting of texts, at their request, assisting them during informal consultations on draft resolutions, as well as by providing information on various substantive matters. The technical secretariat is responsible for the organizational and procedural support to the work of the intergovernmental body, including through the provision of advice to the presiding officer and the Bureau on the rules of procedure and past practice, and in the drafting of the report of the session.

*Inclusion of a general discussion in the work programme*

60. The Commission used to hold a general discussion on each agenda item. Starting from the fifty-sixth session, in 2018, the Commission holds one general discussion of its substantive agenda item and its sub-items 3 (a) Priority theme, 3 (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups and 3 (c) Emerging issues, as a whole. Pursuant to Council resolution 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, the Commission decided to include the agenda item entitled "Emerging issues" in its programme of work and, in accordance with Council resolution 2014/3 of 12 June 2014, decided to utilize the agenda item, as appropriate, to promote consideration of relevant issues on the agenda of the Council, in particular the annual main theme of the Council and the integration segment linked thereto, which would bring together the key messages from the Council system on the main theme and develop action-oriented recommendations for follow-up.

*Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions*

61. The Commission has held a number of panel discussions with invited experts. In its resolution 2018/3, the Council encouraged the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of its work, including by addressing the implementation of, follow-up to and review of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

62. Also in resolution 2018/3, the Council invited the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the relevant specialized agencies, regional commissions, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions to present their relevant activities and reports, which might contribute to the advancement of the priority theme, including by participating in interactive dialogues with Member States and relevant stakeholders.

63. The Commission encourages non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as other civil society actors, to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in line with Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (Council resolution 2018/3).

## 4. Commission on the Status of Women

Website: www.unwomen.org/en/csw

*Terms of reference*

64. The Commission on the Status of Women was established by the Council in its resolution 11 (II) of 21 June 1946 to prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields and to make recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights with the object of implementing the principle that men and women should have equal rights, and to develop proposals to give effect to such recommendations. In its resolution 1987/22 of 26 May 1987, the Council decided to expand the terms of reference of the Commission to include the functions of promoting the objectives of equality, development and peace, monitoring the implementation of measures for the advancement of women, and reviewing and appraising progress made at the national, subregional, regional, sectoral and global levels.

65. In its resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[6] the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, the Council and the Commission, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policymaking and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action adopted at the Conference.[7] The Assembly also decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, should have a central role in the monitoring of the implementation of the Platform for Action within the United Nations system and in advising the Council thereon.

66. In its resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Council further modified the terms of reference of the Commission. It decided that the Commission should:

(a) Assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[8] at all levels, and should advise the Council thereon;

(b) Continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities and develop further its catalytic role in that regard in other areas;

(c) Identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;

(d) Identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required consideration and make substantive recommendations thereon;

(e) Maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Platform for Action.

67. The Commission also has the primary responsibility for follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly.[9]

68. In accordance with Council resolution 2015/6 of 8 June 2015, the Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In selecting its priority theme, the Commission takes into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council system and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

69. Furthermore, the Commission plays a catalytic role with respect to gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, including in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Towards that end, the Commission cooperates with other intergovernmental processes and functional commissions through, as appropriate, the exchange of information and transmission of the outcomes of its

[6] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

[7] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[9] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

work, joint informal interactive events and the participation of its Chair, in consultation with the Bureau, in relevant processes.

*Membership and composition*

70. In accordance with Council resolution 1989/45 of 24 May 1989, the Commission consists of one representative from each of 45 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Thirteen members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Eight members from Western European and other States;

(e) Four members from Eastern European States.

*Term of office*

71. In its decision 2002/234 of 24 July 2002, the Council decided that the term of office of the members of the Commission would be for four regular sessions of the Commission, to begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the Commission's regular session held after 1 January, following their election by the Council, and to end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January, following the election of the States that were to succeed them as members of the Commission, unless they were re-elected.

*Reporting procedure*

72. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Frequency of meetings*

73. In pursuance of Council resolution 1987/21 of 26 May 1987 and Council decision 1999/257 of 28 July 1999, the Commission meets annually for a period of 10 working days.

*Multi-year programme of work*

74. The Commission elaborated a multi-year programme of work for the first time in 1987 (see Council resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987). In 1996, following the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a multi-year programme of work was adopted for the period 1997–2000 (Council resolution 1996/6). Subsequent multi-year programmes of work covered the periods 2002–2006 (Council resolution 2001/4 of 24 July 2001); 2007–2009 (Council resolution 2006/9 of 25 July 2006); 2010–2014 (Council resolution 2009/15 of 28 July 2009); 2015–2016 (Council resolution 2013/18 of 24 July 2013); and 2017–2019 (Council resolution 2016/3 of 2 June 2016).

75. The Commission reviewed its methods of work in 2006 (Council resolution 2006/9, on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission), and confirmed them in 2009 (Council resolution 2009/15). In 2015, the Commission reviewed its methods of work with a view to further enhancing the impact of its work (Council resolution 2015/6, on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women) and as a consequence, the Council requested the Commission to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work. The Council decided that the session of the

Commission would include a ministerial segment; the Commission would continue to consider one priority theme at each session; the Commission would, as necessary, continue to discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men; and, at each session, the Commission would evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme. The Commission selects its priority theme on the basis of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and possible linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

76. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the members of the Bureau serve for two years. Since the Commission meets annually, members are elected at the beginning of every other session. In its decision 2002/234, the Council decided that, starting with the forty-seventh session of the Commission in 2003, the Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

77. There is no formalized practice for rotation of members of the Bureau other than that based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

78. The Bureau of the Commission plays a proactive role in the preparations for the session, including through regular briefings and consultations with Member States, and proposals for interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of the Commission's work.

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

79. There is an understanding among members of the Commission on the desirability of taking action by consensus. If consensus is not possible, the Commission will take action by voting.

80. The Commission decided, at its fortieth session, in 1996, that the results of its dialogues would normally be reflected in concise, action-oriented agreed conclusions, and adopted agreed conclusions for the first time at that session. This was confirmed in Council resolution 2006/9.

81. In its resolution 2015/6, the Council further elaborated on this format when it decided that the outcome of the Commission's annual discussions on the priority theme would be in the form of short and succinct agreed conclusions, negotiated by all Member States, which would focus on action-oriented recommendations for steps and measures to close remaining gaps, meet challenges and accelerate implementation, to be taken by Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, and that the agreed conclusions would be widely disseminated to the United Nations system and made widely available by all Member States to the public in their own countries so as to encourage follow-up action.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

82. The Commission holds informal consultations as required and, in particular, for purposes of elaborating its agreed conclusions.

*Role of the Secretariat*

83. The Secretariat provides information, identifies options available and assists in drafting proposals, at the request of delegations. It prepares proposals for the organization of the sessions and the conduct of business and assists in drafting the final report.

*Inclusion of a general debate*

84. The Commission holds, on an annual basis, a general discussion that commences during the ministerial segment on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Statements identify goals attained, achievements made and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme.

*Utilization of interactive dialogues and panel discussions*

85. In pursuance of Council resolution 2015/6 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission, the Commission's ministerial segment includes ministerial round tables, as well as other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices. Ministers and other high-level government representatives indicate in advance their preferences for participation in ministerial round tables and dialogues. Other stakeholders, including representatives from NGOs and other stakeholder groups, are also given the opportunity to participate.

86. The Commission also holds interactive expert panel discussions on the priority theme and an interactive dialogue on the emerging issue theme, as applicable. The Commission considers its review theme through an interactive dialogue that includes presentations by Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, of lessons learned, challenges and best practices, as well as an interactive expert panel discussion on addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data.

*Participation of non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders*

87. In view of the traditional importance of NGOs in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, such organizations are encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission. The Commission allocates time for them to deliver statements on themes relevant to the session, during panels and interactive dialogues and at the end of the general discussion.

88. Other stakeholders, such as all gender-specific United Nations entities and other relevant United Nations entities, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, are also invited to contribute to the discussion of the Commission.

## 5. Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Website: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/index.html

*Terms of reference*

*(i) Functional commission of the Council*

89. The Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 9 (I) of 16 February 1946, which laid down the following terms of reference:

The Commission shall:

(a) Assist the Council in exercising such powers of supervision over the application of international conventions and agreements dealing with narcotic drugs as may be assumed by or conferred on the Council;

(b) Carry out such functions entrusted to the League of Nations Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs by the international conventions on narcotic drugs as the Council may find necessary to assume and continue;

(c) Advise the Council on all matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs, and prepare such draft international conventions as may be necessary;

(d) Consider what changes may be required in the existing machinery for the international control of narcotic drugs and submit proposals thereon to the Council;

(e) Perform such other functions relating to narcotic drugs as the Council may direct.

*(ii) Treaty and normative functions*

*Drug control conventions*

90. The Commission performs the functions assigned to it by the international drug control treaties, particularly article 8 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 30 March 1961, as amended by the Protocol of 25 March 1972, article 17 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 21 February 1971, and article 21 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 19 December 1988. Pursuant to these provisions, the Commission is, inter alia, authorized to consider all matters pertaining to the aims of the Conventions and to their implementation. As a treaty organ under the 1961 and 1971 Conventions, the Commission decides, on the basis of recommendations of the World Health Organization, to place, remove or transfer narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control. Pursuant to the 1988 Convention, the Commission decides, upon the recommendation of the International Narcotics Control Board, to place in or remove from Table I or Table II of the 1988 Convention precursor chemicals frequently used for the manufacture of illicit drugs, or on their transfer between Table I and Table II.

*(iii) General Assembly: addressing and countering the world drug problem*

91. The General Assembly convened a special session on the world drug problem (19–21 April 2016) to review the progress in the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments. At that session, the Assembly adopted the outcome document entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" (resolution S-30/1, annex, of 19 April 2016), which contained seven thematic chapters and more than 100 operational recommendations. In that outcome document, Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations.

*(iv) Governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme*

92. The Council, by resolution 1991/38 of 21 June 1991, requested the Commission to give policy guidance to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and to monitor its activities.

93. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, section XVI, of 20 December 1991, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs approves, on the basis of the proposals of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the programme budget of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the administrative and programme support costs budget. The Assembly, by the same resolution, established the Fund as from 1 January 1992, under the direct responsibility of the Executive Director of the Programme for the purpose of financing the Programme's operational activities. The Fund accounts for over 90 per cent of the resources available to the United Nations for drug control.

*Membership*

94. The membership of the Commission was increased from 40 to 53 by the Council in its resolution 1991/49 of 21 June 1991, with the following distribution of seats among the regional groups:

(a) Eleven for African States;

(b) Eleven for Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Ten for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Six for Eastern European States;

(e) Fourteen for Western European and other States;

(f) One seat to rotate between the Asia-Pacific States and the Latin American and Caribbean States every four years.

95. In accordance with Council resolution 845 (XXXII), section II, and 1147 (XLI), members are elected (a) from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the Parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, (b) with due regard to the adequate representation of countries that are important producers of opium or coca leaves, of countries that are important in the field of the manufacture of narcotic drugs, and of countries in which drug addiction or the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs constitutes an important problem and (c) taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

*Term of office*

96. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 1156 (XLI), sect. II, of 5 August 1966).

*Reporting procedure*

97. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Frequency of meetings*

98. By resolution 1991/39 of 21 June 1991, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should meet annually for a period not exceeding eight working days. The Council also decided that the Commission should establish the Committee of the Whole to examine specific technical items on the agenda referred to it by the Commission, as well as draft decisions and draft resolutions, the

Committee to meet concurrently with the annual session of the Commission for a period not exceeding four working days.

99. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2011/259 of 28 July 2011, entitled "Joint meetings of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", decided that, starting in 2011, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would hold joint meetings during their reconvened sessions for the purpose of considering agenda items included in the operational segment of the agendas of both Commissions, with a view to providing integrated policy directives to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on administrative, budgetary and strategic management issues. The Council also decided that the practice of holding back-to-back reconvened sessions of the Commissions would be continued to enable each Commission to consider, in separate meetings, agenda items included in the normative segment of its agenda.

100. In accordance with the established budget cycle for the Fund of the Programme and the methodology to be followed in that regard (see Commission resolution 13 (XXXVI)), the Commission approves the final budget of the Fund for the current biennium and the initial budget for the next biennium at a reconvened session held in the final months of odd-numbered years. That practice has been endorsed by the Council in a series of decisions.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

101. With effect from 2000, the Commission, at the end of each session, elects the Bureau for its next session (Council resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999). The newly elected Bureau plays an active role in the preparations for the session, through intersessional meetings of the Commission convened to address organizational and substantive matters related to its work. Another goal of the intersessional meetings of the Commission is to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (Council resolution 1999/30).

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

102. Action by the Commission is taken through resolutions and decisions. Decisions and resolutions are generally taken by consensus; however, decisions provided for under articles 2 and 3 of the 1971 Convention and article 12 of the 1988 Convention are taken by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commission. To adopt these decisions, an affirmative vote of at least 35 members of the Commission is required. Other decisions taken by the Commission under the Single Convention are subject to a majority requirement, as provided for in the Commission's rules of procedure.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

103. Informal consultations have proved to be very useful in advancing agreement refining or merging draft resolutions.

*Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme*

104. At its sixtieth session, in 2017, the Commission decided to include an item entitled "General debate" in its agenda.

*Role of the Secretariat*

105. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime serves as the substantive and technical secretariat of the Commission and assists the Commission in identifying viable options that are available to it.

*Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions*

106. During intersessional meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in particular when thematic discussions are held in follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, the Commission makes use of panellists selected for their expertise, with due consideration to geographical balance, for the purpose of holding interactive dialogues.

107. During the operational segment of its agenda, a dialogue is held between Member States (donor, middle-income and recipient countries) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on priorities and policies, on the basis of the annual report of the Executive Director on the activities of the Programme and proposals for the budget of the Fund.

*Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs*

*(i) Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East*

108. The Subcommission was established, subject to the approval of the Council, by the Commission in resolution 6 (XXV). The Council, in resolution 1776 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, authorized the establishment of the Subcommission.

109. The functions of the Subcommission, which is a subsidiary body of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, are to coordinate regional activities directed against illicit drug traffic and to formulate recommendations to the Commission.

110. The subcommission has 23 members, as follows: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen. States from outside the region may attend as observers. Relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as United Nations bodies may be invited. The Subcommission reports directly to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and meets annually for a period of five days.

*(ii) Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies*

111. The purpose of the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies is to coordinate activities directed against illicit drug traffic within the respective regions. Having been granted the status of subsidiary bodies of the Commission, the reports and recommendations of the meetings are submitted to the Commission.

*a. Asia and the Pacific*

112. Membership is open to any State or territory that is a member or associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Other States outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send observers at their own expense. The meeting takes place annually (Council resolutions 1845 (LVI) of 15 May 1974 and 1988/15 of 25 May 1988).

*b. Africa*

113. Membership is open to any State that is a member of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Other States outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send observers at their own expense. The meeting takes place annually (Council resolutions 1985/11 of 28 May 1985 and 1988/15).

*c. Latin America and the Caribbean region*

114. Membership is open to any State or territory that is a member or associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Other States outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send observers at their own expense. The meeting takes place annually (Council resolutions 1987/34 of 26 May 1987 and 1988/15).

*d. Europe*

115. Membership is open to any State that is a member of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Other States outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send observers at their own expense. In accordance with Council resolution 2005/28 of 22 July 2005, the meeting takes place once every two years in odd-numbered years (Council resolutions 1990/30 of 24 May 1990, 1993/36 of 27 July 1993 and 2005/28 of 22 July 2005).

## 6. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Website: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/index.html

*Terms of reference*

116. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was established as a functional commission of the Council in Council resolution 1992/1 of 6 February 1992 to replace the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

117. Under its terms of reference (see General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, annex), the Commission has the following functions:

(a) To provide policy guidance to the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(b) To develop, monitor and review the implementation of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme on the basis of a system of medium-term planning in accordance with the following priority principles: (i) empirical evidence, including research findings and other information on the nature and extent of crime and on trends in crime; (ii) the social, financial and other costs of various forms of crimes and/or crime control to the individual, the local, national and international community, and to the development process; (iii) the need of developing or developed countries which are confronting specific difficulties related to national or international circumstances to have recourse to experts and other resources necessary for establishing and developing programmes for crime prevention and criminal justice that are appropriate at the national and local levels; (iv) the need for a balance within the programme of work between programme development and practical action; (v) the protection of human rights in the administration of justice and the prevention and control of crime; (vi) the assessment of areas in which concerted action at the international level and within the framework of the programme would be most effective; and (vii) avoidance of overlapping with the activities of other entities of the United Nations system or of other organizations;

(c) To facilitate and help to coordinate the activities of the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders;

(d) To mobilize the support of Member States for the programme;

(e) To prepare for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and to consider suggestions regarding possible subjects for the programme of work as submitted by the congresses.

*Governing body of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund*

118. In its resolution 61/252 of 22 December 2006, the General Assembly authorized the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the principal United Nations policymaking body on crime prevention and criminal justice issues, to approve, on the basis of the proposals of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, bearing in mind the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, including its administrative and programme support costs budget, other than expenditures borne by the regular budget of the United Nations, without prejudice to the powers of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as provided for in that Convention, and to the powers of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as provided for in that Convention.

*Membership and composition*

119. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Commission has 40 members. Its seats are distributed as follows:

(a) Twelve for African States;

(b) Nine for Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Four for Eastern European States;

(d) Eight for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Seven for Western European and other States.

*Term of office*

120. In paragraph 24 of the annex to its resolution 46/152, the General Assembly decided that the term of office of members should be three years.

*Reporting procedure*

121. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. The reports of the quinquennial United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders are issued as documents of the General Assembly (see Assembly resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001, on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the congresses).

*Frequency of meetings*

122. In accordance with paragraph (b) of Council decision 1993/242 of 27 July 1993, the Commission meets annually for a period of eight days. However, the Commission may decide, at an intersessional meeting, to shorten the duration. The Council, in its decision 2011/259, entitled "Joint meetings of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", decided that, starting in 2011, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would hold joint meetings during their reconvened sessions for the purpose of considering agenda items included in the operational segment of the agendas of both Commissions, with a view to providing integrated policy directives to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on administrative, budgetary and strategic management issues. The Council also decided that the practice of holding back-to-back reconvened sessions

of the Commissions should be continued to enable each Commission to consider, in separate meetings, agenda items included in the normative segment of its agenda.

123. In its decision 1997/232 of 21 July 1997, the Council decided that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in addition to plenary meetings, should be provided with full interpretation services for a total of 12 meetings for informal consultations on draft proposals and for meetings of open-ended working groups, with the precise allocation of time for the different types of meetings to be determined by the Commission under the agenda item entitled "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work", on the understanding that no more than two meetings would be held concurrently, in order to ensure maximum participation of delegations. The Committee of the Whole, which examines draft decisions and draft resolutions, normally meets from the afternoon on the first day of the session until lunchtime of the last day of the session.

*Multi-year programme of work*

124. In section I of its resolution 6/1 of 9 May 1997, the Commission decided to establish a multi-year workplan, with each session of the Commission being devoted to a specific major theme. In its resolution 9/1 of 20 April 2000, the Commission decided to continue to follow its established multi-year programme of work, according to which each session of the Commission would have one prominent theme.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

125. In accordance with Council resolution 2003/31 of 22 July 2003, the Commission, at the end of each session, elects its Bureau for the subsequent session. Its members hold office for one year.

126. The members of the Bureau rotate in accordance with Commission decision 1/101 of 29 April 1992. The newly elected Bureau plays an active role in the preparations for the session, through intersessional meetings of the Commission convened to address organizational and substantive matters related to its work.

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

127. By informal agreement, action is taken by consensus. Thus far, action has been taken through resolutions and decisions.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

128. Most draft resolutions are discussed and agreed upon during informal consultations. This is accomplished through the establishment of parallel sessions of the Committee of the Whole, chaired by one of the Vice-Chairs.

*Role of the Secretariat*

129. The Secretariat plays an active role by providing technical and substantive services to the Commission and by assisting the Commission in identifying options available to the Commission and advising it on viable solutions.

*Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme*

130. At its twenty-sixth session, in 2017, the Commission decided to include an item entitled "General debate" in its agenda.

*Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions*

131. In line with its programme of work, the Commission normally holds panel discussions on its prominent themes during the thematic discussions held at each session, with panellists being nominated with due consideration to geographical balance. The Commission holds open-ended intersessional meetings on a regular basis.

## 7. Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Website: http://unctad.org/en/Pages/CSTD.aspx

*Terms of reference*

132. In its decision 1992/218 of 30 April 1992, the Council established the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as a functional commission and as the successor to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its subsidiary body, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The Intergovernmental Committee had been established in General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979, by which the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development.[10] Council decision 1992/218 was adopted pursuant to Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. The mandate of the Commission was reaffirmed by the Council in its resolution 1992/62 of 31 July 1992.

133. The consolidated mandate of the Commission is derived from General Assembly resolutions 34/218, 41/183 of 8 December 1986, 44/14 A to E of 26 October 1989 and 46/235, as well as from the annex to resolution 7 (II) of 4 June 1980 of the Intergovernmental Committee, and specifies the following functions:

(a) Promoting and catalysing international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, in particular in developing countries, and in helping solve global scientific and technological problems;

(b) Formulating policy guidelines for the harmonization of policies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to scientific and technological activities, on the basis of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(c) Promoting the improvement of linkages between the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring the coordinated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(d) Identifying priorities for activities within the Vienna Programme of Action with a view to facilitating operational planning at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

(e) Monitoring the activities and programmes related to science and technology within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(f) Promoting the optimum mobilization of resources in order to enable the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to carry out the activities of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(g) Providing directives and policymaking guidance to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development;

[10] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20–31 August 1979* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

(h) The early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological developments that may adversely affect the development process as well as those that may have specific and potential importance for that process and for strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries;

(i) Choosing subjects of particular significance with major science and technology dimensions with a view to providing an assessment of technology and related policy analysis in order to facilitate the debate of the question in the Assembly;

(j) Providing, at the request of the Council, such scientific and technical expert advice as may be necessary for the discharge of the mandate of the Council;

(k) Providing also, through the Council, expert advice to other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system.

134. In its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, the Council, recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action, adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003[11] and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 59/220 of 22 December 2004, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[12] and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, expanded the mandate of the Commission to include follow-up to the Summit. In paragraph 4 of the same resolution, the Council decided that, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 and 60/252, the Commission should effectively assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the Summit, while at the same time, maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development, also taking into account the provisions of paragraph 60 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome.[13]

135. The Council also decided, in paragraph 6 of the same resolution, that, in the exercise of the above-mentioned responsibility, the Commission should review and assess progress made in implementing the outcomes of the Summit and advise the Council thereon, including through the elaboration of recommendations to the Council aimed at furthering the implementation of the Summit outcomes and, that to that end, the Commission should:

(a) Review and assess progress at the international and regional levels in the implementation of action lines, recommendations and commitments contained in the outcome documents of the Summit;

(b) Share best and effective practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for further implementation of the Summit outcomes;

(c) Promote dialogue and foster partnerships, in coordination with other appropriate United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to contribute to the attainment of the Summit objectives and the implementation of its outcomes and to use information and communication technologies for development and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, with the participation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations and other international organizations in accordance with their different roles and responsibilities.

[11] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I.

[12] See A/60/687.

[13] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

136. In its resolution 70/125 entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", adopted on 16 December 2015, the General Assembly called for the continuation of annual reports on the implementation of outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard invited the high-level political forum on sustainable development to consider the annual reports of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

137. Most recently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/228 adopted on 20 December 2017, recognized the central role that the Commission plays, as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for development, in analysing how science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, serve as enablers of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by acting as a forum for strategic planning, sharing lessons learned and best practices, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy, the environment and society, and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies.

*Membership and composition*

138. In accordance with Council decision 2006/267 of 15 December 2006, the Commission has 43 members, with the following geographical distribution:

(a) Eleven members from African States;

(b) Nine members from Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Eight members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Five members from Eastern European States;

(e) Ten members from Western European and other States.

*Term of office*

139. The term of office of members is four years (General Assembly resolution 46/235, annex, para. 7 (a) (ii)).

*Reporting procedure*

140. As a functional commission, the Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Duration of meetings*

141. The Commission meets annually for a period of one week (Council resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2002/37 of 26 July 2002 and decision 2003/291 of 24 July 2003).

*Programme of work*

142. Starting from its sixteenth session, in 2013, the Commission selects annually two themes as the priority themes for consideration at its next session. At its tenth session, in 2007, in response to the request of the Council in its resolution 2006/46, the Commission adopted a multi-year work programme and decided to focus in each biennium on a specific theme related to the building of the information society, and

to examine, within its original mandate, the implications of science and technology for development (see Commission decision 10/101[14]).

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

143. At the end of each session, the Commission elects its Bureau for the following session. The Bureau retains its functions during the intersessional period.

144. There is no special arrangement for a senior Vice-Chair to become Chair at the following session. The rotation of members of the Bureau is based on the principle of equitable geographical distributio...

145. The Bureau of the Commission plays a proactive role in the preparations for the session, including through regular briefings and consultations with Member States, and proposals for interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of the Commission's work.

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

146. There has been an informal understanding among members of the Commission that decisions should be made by consensus. The Commission normally takes action on draft proposals without a vote.

147. The Commission takes action on draft resolutions and decisions. It does not take action on the basis of Chair's summaries or agreed conclusions. Chair's summaries have, however, been included in the report of the Commission.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

148. Informal consultations are held on all draft proposals and the draft report.

*Role of the Secretariat*

149. The Secretariat traditionally assists the members of the Commission by providing substantive and technical secretariat support. The substantive secretariat assists delegations in the drafting of texts, at their request, assisting them during informal consultations on draft proposals, as well as by providing information on various substantive matters. The technical secretariat is responsible for the organizational and procedural support to the work of the intergovernmental body, including through the provision of advice to the presiding officer and the Bureau on the rules of procedure and past practice, and in the drafting of the report of the session.

*Inclusion of a general discussion in the work programme*

150. A general discussion is held on each agenda item.

*Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions*

151. At its second session, the Commission decided that it would carry out its work programme at future sessions, inter alia, through panels, experts or working groups.

*Participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society entities and business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission*

152. In its resolution 2006/46, the Council decided that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved. For the modalities of participation of such

[14] See E/2007/31-E/CN.16/2007/4.

organizations and entities, see Council decisions 2015/243, 2015/244 and 2015/245, of 22 July 2015.

### 8. Commission on Sustainable Development (discontinued)

153. The Commission on Sustainable Development was established as a functional commission of the Council in Council decision 1993/207 of 12 February 1993, to ensure effective follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress of the implementation of Agenda 21[15] in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries. In its resolution 66/288, the General Assembly decided to establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. (annex, sect. IV, paras. 84–86 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development). In its resolution 67/290, the Assembly recommended that the Economic and Social Council abolish the Commission on Sustainable Development effective upon the conclusion of its twentieth session, to be held prior to the first meeting of the forum, pursuant to Assembly resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012. The Commission on Sustainable Development held its twentieth and final session on 20 September 2013. By its resolution 2013/19 of 24 July 2013, the Council abolished the Commission on Sustainable Development with effect from 20 September 2013.

### 9. United Nations Forum on Forests

Website: www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html

*Terms of reference*

154. The United Nations Forum on Forests was established as a subsidiary body of the Council by Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000. In accordance with that resolution, the main objective of the international arrangement on forests was to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.

155. In its resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, the Council decided to set the following shared global objectives on forests and agreed to work globally and nationally to achieve progress towards their achievement by 2015:

*Global objective 1*

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

*Global objective 2*

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

[15] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

*Global objective 3*

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

*Global objective 4*

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

156. In its resolution 2015/33 of 22 July 2015, the Council decided:

(a) To strengthen the international arrangement on forests and extend it to 2030;

(b) That the international arrangement on forests is composed of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its Member States, the secretariat of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(c) That the international arrangement on forests involves as partners interested international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders;

(d) That the objectives of the international arrangement on forests are:

(i) To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(ii) To enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the post-2015 development agenda;

(iii) To enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels;

(iv) To foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels;

(v) To support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in order to achieve sustainable forest management;

(e) To strengthen long-term political commitment to the achievement of the objectives listed above.

157. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Council decided that the core functions of the Forum are:

(a) To provide a coherent, open, transparent and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation and coordination on issues related to all types of forests, including emerging issues, in an integrated and holistic manner, including through cross-sectoral approaches;

(b) To promote, monitor and assess the implementation of sustainable forest management, in particular the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of its global objectives on forests, and mobilize, catalyse and facilitate access to financial, technical and scientific resources to this end;

(c) To promote governance frameworks and enabling conditions at all levels to achieve sustainable forest management;

(d) To promote coherent and collaborative international policy development on issues related to all types of forests;

(e) To strengthen high-level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders, in support of sustainable forest management.

158. The Council also decided to improve and strengthen the functioning of the Forum beyond 2015 by requesting the Forum:

(a) To carry out its core functions on the basis of a strategic plan for the period 2017–2030;

(b) To restructure its sessions and enhance its intersessional work to maximize the impact and relevance of its work, including by fostering an exchange of experiences and lessons learned among countries, regional, subregional and non-governmental partners and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

159. In its resolution 71/285 of 27 April 2017, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. At the heart of the strategic plan are six global forest goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030. These goals and targets fully encompass and build on the solid foundation provided by the four global objectives on forests included in the United Nations forest instrument.

*Global forest goal 1*

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15

*Global forest goal 2*

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased

2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14 and 18

*Global forest goal 3*

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11, 12 and 16

*Global forest goal 4*

Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 19

*Global forest goal 5*

Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

5.1 The number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3

*Global forest goal 6*

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

6.1 Forest-related programmes within the United Nations system are coherent and complementary and integrate the global forest goals and targets, where appropriate

6.2 Forest-related programmes across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

*Membership*

160. The Forum is composed of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies, with full and equal participation, including voting rights. It is open to all States and operates in a transparent and participatory manner. Relevant international and regional organizations, including regional

economic integration organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as the major groups identified in Agenda 21, are also involved.

161. The Forum operates under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council. The supplementary procedural arrangements established by the Council for the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995 also apply to the Forum.

162. Paragraph 4 of Council resolution 2000/35 and paragraphs 10 to 18 of its resolution 2006/49 set out the other working modalities for the Forum.

*Reporting procedure*

163. The Forum reports to the Council and, through it, to the General Assembly. The reports on its sessions are also made available to relevant United Nations bodies and other international forest-related organizations, instruments and intergovernmental processes to strengthen synergies and coordination in policy development and the implementation of forest-related activities.

*Frequency of meetings*

164. The Forum meets annually for a period of five days (Council resolution 2015/33, para. 6 (c)). The Forum may convene high-level segments not to exceed two days during sessions of the Forum, as required, to accelerate action towards sustainable forest management and address forest-related global challenges and emerging issues; such segments may include a partnership forum involving the heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and leaders from the private sector, philanthropic and civil society organizations and other major groups (Council resolution 2015/33, para. 6 (d)).

*Quadrennial programme of work*

165. The Forum carries out its core functions on the basis of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (General Assembly resolution 71/285) and works on the basis of a quadrennial programme of work. In its resolution 2017/4, adopted on 20 April 2017, the Council adopted the quadrennial programme of work for the Forum for the period 2017–2020.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

166. The Bureau of the Forum consists of one Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom also acts as Rapporteur, elected in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Immediately following the closure of a session, the Forum holds the first meeting of its subsequent session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau. In accordance with resolution 12/2 of the Forum, starting at its fourteenth regular session in 2019, the Forum shall elect its officers for a two-year term of office with a view to ensuring continuity between policy and technical sessions of the Forum.

167. The Bureau prepares each session of the Forum. Typically, its members participate during the intersessional period in expert groups meetings as well as key events/meetings or country- or organization-led initiatives relevant to its mandate. Throughout the said period, it keeps the members of the Forum informed of preparatory work that has been initiated and acts as an interface between the latter and the Secretariat, particularly in respect of emerging issues relating to forestry.

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

168. There is no formal or informal agreement that action should be taken by consensus. The Forum takes action through decisions and resolutions.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

169. The Forum normally holds informal consultations on all texts under consideration.

*Role of the Secretariat*

170. The Secretariat traditionally assists the members of the Forum by providing substantive and technical secretariat support. The substantive secretariat assists delegations in the drafting of texts, at their request, during informal consultations on draft proposals, as well as by providing information on various substantive matters. The technical secretariat is responsible for the organizational and procedural support to the work of the Forum, including through the provision of advice to the presiding officer and the Bureau on the rules of procedure and past practice, and in the drafting of the report of the session.

*Ad hoc expert group meetings*

171. Pursuant to Council resolutions 2000/35, 2006/49 and 2015/33, the Forum may convene ad hoc expert group meetings during its intersessional period (see Forum resolution 7/1 for other intersessional modalities).

## B. Regional commissions

### 1. Economic Commission for Africa

Website: www.uneca.org/

*Terms of reference*

172. The Economic Commission for Africa was established by the Council in its resolution 671 A (XXV) of 29 April 1958, which set forth the following terms of reference:

> The Economic Commission for Africa, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries and territories of Africa, both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Africa as the Commission deems appropriate, and disseminate the results of such investigation and studies;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform, within the available resources of its secretariat, such advisory services as the countries and territories of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by other bodies of the United Nations or by the specialized agencies;

(e) Assist the Council at its request in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) Assist in the formulation and development of coordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development in the region;

(g) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of economic and social factors.

*Membership and composition*

173. In accordance with section III of Council resolution 974 D (XXXVI) of 24 July 1963, which amended the terms of reference of the Commission in regard to its membership, the Commission has at present 54 members: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

*Subsidiary bodies*

174. The Council, in paragraph 3 of resolution 671 A (XXV) of 29 April 1958, decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities. The Council, by its resolution 2013/2 of 5 July 2013, approved a new structure for the Commission and endorsed the proposed intergovernmental machinery below:

(a) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (the Commission) and its Committee of Experts;

(b) Intergovernmental Committee of Experts five subregional offices: one for North Africa with headquarters in Rabat, Morocco; one for West Africa with headquarters in Niamey; one for Central Africa with headquarters in Yaoundé; one for Southern Africa with headquarters in Lusaka; and one for Eastern Africa with headquarters in Kigali.

175. In addition, an annual joint African Union/Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is organized.

176. The Commission has at present the following four sectoral committees and one subsidiary body:

(a) Committee on Sustainable Development;

(b) Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration;

(c) Committee on Gender and Social Development;

(d) Committee on Statistics;

(e) African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

*Reporting procedure*

177. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 671 A (XXV), para. 18), and its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. In addition, matters calling for action by the Council or brought to its attention are included in the annual report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

*Frequency of meetings*

178. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (the Commission) and its Committee of Experts meet on an annual basis; the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts also meets on an annual basis for a maximum of five working days.

## 2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Website: www.unescap.org/

*Terms of reference*

179. The Commission was provisionally established by the Council in its resolution 37 (IV) of 28 March 1947 as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. The Council, in resolution 414 (XIII), section C.I, of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951, decided to continue the Commission indefinitely, and, by resolution 1895 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, decided to change the name to "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific".

180. The terms of reference of the Commission as set out in Council resolution 37 (IV), which have been amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, most recently in Council decision 1994/288 of 26 July 1994 and Council resolutions 1995/22 of 24 July 1995, 1996/3 A to C of 18 July 1996, 2002/2 of 19 July 2002, 2003/7 of 18 July 2003 and 2005/35 of 26 July 2005, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions on the admission of new members, are as follows:

> The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council shall, provided the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

*Membership and composition*

181. The Commission has at present 53 members, of which 4 are not within its geographical scope, and 9 associate members. The members are: Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. Any State in the area that may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission. The associate members are American Samoa; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Cook Islands; French Polynesia; Guam; Hong Kong, China; Macau, China; New Caledonia; and Niue.

*Subsidiary bodies*

182. The Council, in resolution 69 (V) of 31 July 1947, decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

183. The Council, in its resolution 2015/30 of 22 July 2015 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda, and later, the Commission, in its resolution 73/1 of 19 May 2017 on a conference structure of the Commission aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, decided to retain the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, which meets on a regular basis to advise and exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the Commission's work.

184. It was also decided that:

The subsidiary structure of the Commission would include the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and consist of the following nine committees:

(a) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development;

(b) Committee on Trade and Investment;

(c) Committee on Transport;

(d) Committee on Environment and Development;

(e) Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation;

(f) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

(g) Committee on Social Development;

(h) Committee on Statistics;

(i) Committee on Energy.

The nine committees would each meet biennially for a maximum duration of three days for each session, with joint plenary sessions between multiple committees to discuss cross-cutting issues, when possible and desirable.

185. It was further decided that the following institutions under the auspices of the Commission would continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(b) Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture;

(c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

(e) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(f) Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.

186. It was decided that the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries would be held for a maximum of one day during the senior officials segment, holding a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole.

187. The terms of reference of the bodies mentioned above are contained in the annexes to the annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/2017/39-E/ESCAP/73/40).

*Reporting procedure*

188. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 37 (IV)). Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. In addition, matters calling for action by the Council or brought to its attention are included in the annual report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

*Frequency of meetings*

189. In accordance with Commission resolution 73/1, the Commission meets annually, with each session comprising a senior officials segment followed by a ministerial segment, for a total of five working days.

### 3. Economic Commission for Europe

Website: www.unece.org/info/ece-homepage.html

*Terms of reference*

190. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was established by the Council in its resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947. The current terms of reference of the Commission were endorsed by the Council in its resolution 2006/38 of 27 July 2006 and are contained in annex II to that resolution. The rules of procedure of ECE were revised in 2009 in accordance with Commission decision B (63) (document E/ECE/778/Rev.5). In accordance with the terms of reference, the Commission:

(a) Acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(i) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development and integration of Europe, for raising the level of European economic activity, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the European countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(ii) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems of and developments within member countries of the Commission and within Europe generally as the Commission deems appropriate;

(iii) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(b) Is empowered to make recommendations on any matter within its competence directly to its member Governments, Governments admitted in a consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the prior consideration of the Council any of its proposals for activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole;

(c) May, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

191. At its meeting on 2 December 2005, the Commission adopted the workplan on its reform, which was endorsed by the Council in its resolution 2006/38 and is contained in annex I to that resolution. The workplan included the following mission statement:

> The Economic Commission for Europe as a multilateral platform facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its ... member States and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity through:
>
> (a) Policy dialogue;
>
> (b) Negotiation of international legal instruments;
>
> (c) Development of regulations and norms;
>
> (d) Exchange and application of best practices as well as economic and technical expertise;
>
> (e) Technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition.

The Economic Commission for Europe contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through the regional implementation of outcomes of global United Nations conferences and summits.

192. Section II of the workplan, entitled "Governance structure", sets out the responsibilities and methods of work for the Executive Committee, as follows:

(a) Implementation of the overall guidance set by the Commission;

(b) Representatives of all States members of the Commission participate in the Executive Committee;

(c) The Chairs of the sectoral committees — or the Vice-Chairs — are regularly invited to the meetings of the Executive Committee;

(d) The Executive Secretary or his representative takes part in the meetings of the Executive Committee;

(e) The Executive Committee is presided over by a representative of the country that chairs the Commission. The Chairman of the Executive Committee is assisted by two Vice-Chairs elected by the Executive Committee, for a period of one year, the term being renewable;

(f) In the period between the biennial sessions of the Commission, the Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Commission and can seize itself of all matters related to Commission activities in conformity with the terms of reference.

193. The ECE reform was adopted in December 2005 (document E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) and endorsed by the Council in its resolution 2006/38. The workplan of the reform is contained in annex I to that resolution.

194. At its sixty-fourth session, held in Geneva in March 2011, the Commission adopted decision A (64). In that decision, the Commission, inter alia, reaffirmed the strategic directions adopted by the 2005 ECE reform, welcomed its implementation and achievements, and underlined the importance of its first five-year review in 2011–2012, with a view to drawing conclusions on the future work priorities of ECE. It also reaffirmed the commitment of its member States to support and strengthen the effective implementation of the organization's mandate, to ensure its continued substantive relevance and greater visibility, and to maintain and promote its relevance as a regional forum in its areas of expertise, meeting effectively the changing needs of its member States, and taking into due account the specific needs of its countries with economies in transition (E/2011/37-E/ECE/1462).

195. By the same decision, the Commission invited the Executive Committee to decide on the modalities of the review. In the modalities of the 2011–2012 review of the 2005 ECE reform (ECE/EX/6) issued on 21 September 2011, the Executive Committee, assisted by Chairs/Bureaux of Sectoral Committees, was tasked to review the work and priorities within each of the eight subprogrammes implemented by ECE and submit its recommendations to the Commission for its approval in 2013.

196. The Commission adopted decision A (65) entitled "Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE" establishing the following priorities and activities identified in the review process to be implemented within the existing regular budgetary and additional extrabudgetary resources under the overall guidance and decisions of the Sectoral Committees and the Executive Committee:

(a) Environment subprogramme;

(b) Transport subprogramme;

(c) Subprogramme on statistics;

(d) Subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration;

(e) Subprogramme on sustainable energy;

(f) Trade development subprogramme;

(g) Subprogramme on timber and forestry;

(h) Subprogramme on housing, land management and population;

(i) Gender issues.

*Membership and composition*

197. The Commission has at present 56 members: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan. The Holy See participates in the work of the Commission in accordance with Commission decision N (XXXI) of 5 April 1976.

*Subsidiary bodies*

198. The Council, in paragraph 5 of section A of its resolution 36 (IV), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

199. The workplan (see Council resolution 2006/38, annex I) established the eight sectoral committees, which meet on an annual basis. As result of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (decision A (65)), mandates of four Committees were confirmed and four Committees were either replaced or renamed to better reflect the evolving needs and priorities of member States:

(a) Committee on Environmental Policy (mandate unchanged);

(b) Committee on Inland Transport (mandate unchanged);

(c) Committee on Statistics, further referred to as the Conference of European Statisticians (mandate unchanged);

(d) Committee on Sustainable Energy (terms of reference updated in 2014, document ECE/EX/7);

(e) Committee on Trade by decision ECE/EX/22 of the Executive Committee (February 2015) replaced by the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards;

(f) Committee on Timber renamed by decision A (65) of the Commission the "Committee on Forest and Forest Industry". The new name is consistent with the current mandate (ECE/TIM/2008/7-FO:EFC/08/7) and therefore the name change does not imply a change in the Committee's mandate;

(g) Committee on Housing and Land Management (mandate unchanged);

(h) Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration replaced by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (ECE/EX/2015/L.8).

200. Two subsidiary intergovernmental bodies of ECE are placed under the overall guidance of the Executive Committee:

(a) United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (consolidated mandate and terms of reference approved in 2017, document ECE/EX/2017/L.7);

(b) Working Group on Ageing (renewal of mandate for the period 2018–2022 and terms of reference approved in 2018, document ECE/EX/2018/L.1).

*Reporting procedure*

201. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 36 (IV), para. 6), and its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. In addition, matters calling for action by the Council or brought to its attention are included in the annual report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

*Frequency of meetings*

202. In accordance with Council resolution 2006/38, the Commission meets biennially.

### 4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Website: www.cepal.org/en

*Terms of reference*

203. The Economic Commission for Latin America was established by the Council in its resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February and 5 March 1948. In its resolution 1984/67 of 27 July 1984, the Council decided to change the name of the Commission to the present one. The following terms of reference were set out in Council resolutions 106 (VI), 234 (IX) of 12 August 1949, 414 (XIII), section C.I, of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951, and 723 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, and the Council's decision of 31 July 1969 adopted at its forty-seventh session:

> The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for dealing with urgent economic problems and for raising the level of economic activity in Latin America and the Caribbean and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the Latin American and Caribbean countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Latin America and the Caribbean as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (d) Give special attention in its activities to the problems of economic development and assist in the formulation and development of coordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic development in the region;

(e) Assist the Council in discharging its functions with respect to the United Nations technical assistance programme, in particular by assisting in the appraisal of these activities in the Latin American and Caribbean region;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

The Commission shall direct its activities especially towards the study and seeking of solutions of problems arising in Latin America and the Caribbean from world economic maladjustment and towards other problems connected with the world economy, with a view to the cooperation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the common effort to achieve worldwide recovery and economic stability.

*Membership and composition*

204. The Commission has at present 46 members and 14 associate members. The members are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

205. The associate members are: Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

*Subsidiary bodies*

206. The Council, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 106 (VI), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

207. At present, the Commission has the following subsidiary bodies:

(a) Central American Economic Cooperation Committee;

(b) Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning;

(c) Committee of High-level Government Experts;

(d) Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee;

(e) Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(f) ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas (Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000);

(g) Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(h) Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies (Council resolution 2012/35);

(i) Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Council resolution 2014/32);

(j) Committee on South-South Cooperation.

*Reporting procedure*

208. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 106 (VI), para. 12), and its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. In addition, matters calling for action by the Council or brought to its attention are included in the annual report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

*Frequency of meetings*

209. The Commission meets biennially, in even years, and in odd years the Committee of the Whole holds its session.

## 5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Website: www.unescwa.org/

*Terms of reference*

210. The Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 as the Economic Commission for Western Asia. In its resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, the Council changed the name of the Commission to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Its terms of reference, set out in Council resolution 1818 (LV), as subsequently amended, are as follows:

> The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Western Asia, for raising the level of economic activity in Western Asia and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the countries of that area both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Western Asia as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Development Programme;
>
> (e) Assist the Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;
>
> (f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

*Membership and composition*

211. The Commission has at present 18 members: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

*Subsidiary bodies*

212. The Commission is comprised of nine intergovernmental bodies: the Executive Committee and eight specialized subsidiary committees that help the Commission to formulate its work programme and act as an interface between specialists of the member countries and the substantive experts of the Commission. The Executive Committee plays a key role in steering and coordinating all ESCWA activities in between ministerial sessions.

213. The committees report to the biennial session of the Commission and, under ESCWA resolution 219 (XX) of 27 May 1999, all but two meet once every two years. The Committee on Transport and the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region, however, meet on an annual basis. The committees are:

(a) The Executive Committee, which meets every six months (see Council resolution 2014/36 of 17 November 2014);

(b) Statistical Committee, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 1993/2 of 2 February 1993);

(c) Committee on Social Development, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 1994/27 of 26 July 1994);

(d) Committee on Energy, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 1995/25 of 24 July 1995);

(e) Committee on Water Resources, which meets biennially (see Council resolutions 1995/26 of 24 July 1995 and 1999/41 of 28 July 1999);

(f) Committee on Transport, which meets annually (see Council resolution 1997/11 of 18 July 1997);

(g) Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region, which meets annually (see Council resolutions 1997/12 of 18 July 1997 and 1999/41);

(h) Committee on Women, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 2003/9 of 18 July 2003);

(i) Committee on Technology for Development, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 2014/35 of 17 November 2014).

*Reporting procedure*

214. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 1818 (LV), para. 12). The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. In addition, matters calling for action by the Council or brought to its attention are included in the annual report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

*Frequency of meetings*

215. Pursuant to Council resolution 1994/26 of 26 July 1994, ESCWA resolutions 158 (XIV) of 5 April 1987 and 196 (XVII) of 31 May 1994, the Commission sits once every two years. Since 2006, sessions have been convened in two segments, a high officials segment and a ministerial segment.

## C. Standing committees

### 1. Committee for Programme and Coordination

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/cpc/

*Terms of reference*

216. The Committee for Programme and Coordination is a subsidiary body of both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and, as such, will also be covered in part II of the current document.

217. The Committee for Programme and Coordination was first established under the name "Special Committee on Coordination" by the Council in its resolution 920 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962. It was renamed "Committee for Programme and Coordination" by the Council in its resolution 1171 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, "to reflect better its dual responsibilities". The Committee's original terms of reference were set out in those resolutions. In its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the General Assembly decided "that the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination" and approved the consolidated terms of reference as set out in the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976. The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

*A. Functions*[16]

1. The Committee shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination.

2. In particular, the Committee shall:

(a) Review the programmes of the United Nations as defined in the medium-term plan. In performing this function, the Committee shall:

(i) Review the medium-term plan in the off-budget years and the programme budget in budget years;

In reviewing the medium-term plan, the Committee shall examine, in the light of its budgetary implications, the totality of the Secretary-General's work programme, giving particular attention to programme changes arising out of decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and conferences or suggested by the Secretary-General;

The Committee shall concern itself with medium-term plans formulated for the organizational units involved in each programme of the United Nations and assess the results achieved from current activities, the continuing validity of legislative decisions of more than five years' standing, and the effectiveness

[16] In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/269, the medium-term plan was replaced by the strategic framework.

of coordination with other units of the Secretariat and members of the United Nations family;

(ii) Recommend an order of priorities among United Nations programmes as defined in the medium-term plan;

(iii) Give guidance to the Secretariat on programme design by interpreting legislative intent so as to assist it in translating legislation into programmes. In this connection, the memorandums on the implementation of resolutions, prepared by the Secretariat after each session of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, shall be made available to the Committee, which, in the periods immediately following the sessions of those bodies, shall cooperate with the Secretariat departments concerned in integrating the new legislation into continuing programmes;

(iv) Consider and develop evaluation procedures and their use in the improvement of programme design;

(v) Make recommendations with respect to work programmes proposed by the Secretariat to give effect to the legislative intent of the relevant policy-making organs, taking into account the need to avoid overlapping and duplication;

(b) Assist the Economic and Social Council in the performance of its coordination functions within the United Nations system.

3. In discharging those responsibilities, the Committee shall:

(a) Consider on a sector-by-sector basis the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system in order to enable the Council effectively to perform its functions as coordinator of the system and ensure that the work programmes of the United Nations and its agencies shall be compatible and mutually complementary;

(b) Recommend guidelines for the agencies of the United Nations system on their programmes and activities, taking into account their respective functions and responsibilities and the need for coherence and coordination throughout the system;

(c) Undertake from time to time, upon the recommendation of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council, a review and appraisal of the implementation of important legislative decisions, so as to determine the degree of coordinated effort undertaken throughout the United Nations system in certain priority fields designated as such by legislative bodies. The Committee shall perform this work, both independently and in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and shall be required to report on the results of its review to the legislative body that requested that it be undertaken;

(d) The Committee shall study the reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (subsequently, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), appropriate reports of United Nations organs, the annual reports of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant documents.

### *B. Relationships with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Joint Inspection Unit*

4. The Committee shall establish useful cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

5. The members of the Joint Inspection Unit shall be free to participate in meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and arrangements shall be made for periodic joint consultations. The Joint Inspection Unit shall also bring to the attention of the Committee any problem which it may consider important within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities.

6. The reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which shall report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In its review, the Committee shall take account of any comments which the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions may wish to make on these reports.

218. Pursuant to the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations,[17] the General Assembly, in section II of its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, called for improvement of the representation in the Committee in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 46 of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977. Annex I to resolution 41/213, which is entitled "Budget process", provides that, in off-budget years, "the Committee for Programme and Coordination, acting as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, shall consider the outline and submit, through the Fifth Committee, to the General Assembly its conclusions and recommendations" and that, in budget years, "the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates and submit their conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, for the final approval of the programme budget".

219. In its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly: (a) decided that the Committee for Programme and Coordination would no longer consider the budget outline; and (b) requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, a strategic framework to replace the current four-year medium-term plan. In its resolution 62/224 of 22 December 2007, the Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee at its forty-seventh session to maintain the strategic framework as the principal policy directive of the United Nations, which serves as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, with effect from the biennium 2010–2011.

220. In accordance with paragraphs 12 and 13 of General Assembly resolution 58/269, the Committee reviews the programmes of the United Nations as defined in the strategic framework. Specifically, it reviews: (a) the strategic framework in the off-budget years; and (b) the programme budget in budget years in so far as new and/or revised mandates approved by the Assembly subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan have been incorporated.

221. In its resolution 72/266 A of 24 December 2017, the Assembly, inter alia, approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis and decided that the proposed programme budget would consist of:

[17] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/41/49).

(a) Part I: the plan outline, which endorses the long-term priorities and the objectives of the Organization;

(b) Part II: the programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information;

(c) Part III: the post and non-post resource requirements for the programmes and subprogrammes.

222. The General Assembly also decided that parts I and II would be submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and part III through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the Assembly. Furthermore, the Assembly reiterated that the Committees should examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates and that the sequential nature of the review process of the proposed programme budget would be preserved. The changes decided upon in resolution 72/266 A would be reviewed by the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, with a view to taking a final decision on the implementation of the annual budget.

223. In its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Committee as the main subsidiary of the Assembly and the Council for planning, programming and coordination. It also endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate.[18]

*Membership and composition*

224. In accordance with General Assembly decision 42/450 of 17 December 1987, the Committee consists of 34 Member States nominated by the Council and elected by the Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, as follows:

(a) Nine seats for African States;

(b) Seven seats for Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Seven seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven seats for Western European and other States;

(e) Four seats for Eastern European States.

*Term of office*

225. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 2008 (LX), annex, para. 7).

*Reporting procedure*

226. The Committee reports to the Assembly and the Council, as it is a subsidiary body of both. Its reports are presented as supplements to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

*Frequency of meetings*

227. In accordance with its terms of reference (see annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976) the Committee meets for six weeks during programme planning years (even-numbered years) and for four weeks in budget years (odd-numbered years) (see also paras. 219–222 above).

[18] Ibid., *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/62/16), paras. 146–159.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

228. The Committee elects its Bureau at its organizational session, which is to be held no later than six weeks before the beginning of each substantive session. It elects a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur for a term of one year.

229. The post of Chair and the post of Rapporteur rotate annually among the regional groups in accordance with a decision taken at the Committee's twenty-fifth session, held in 1985. There is a strict pattern of rotation for the post of Chair: (a) African States; (b) Eastern European States; (c) Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Western European and other States; and (e) Asia-Pacific States.

230. The post of Rapporteur is occupied by a member of the regional group that occupied the post of Chair the previous year.

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

231. The Committee takes action by consensus. The report of the Committee consists of two parts: (a) an account of the discussion; and (b) conclusions and recommendations. The part of the report reflecting the discussion contains the views expressed by individual delegations during the formal meetings and not those of the Secretariat. In that connection, at its thirty-ninth session, held in 2000, the Committee agreed that draft reports of the Committee prepared by the Secretariat must accurately reflect the opinions expressed during the discussion on specific matters. The conclusions and recommendations section of the report contains the agreements reached on issues raised under specific agenda items. Also at its thirty-ninth session, the Committee agreed to concentrate on the conclusions and recommendations section of the draft report.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

232. It has been the practice of the Committee to hold informal consultations on all substantive items under consideration in order to facilitate the consensus. At its forty-seventh session, held in 2007, the Committee, while emphasizing the importance of formal meetings, decided to devote more time to informal consultations. It also emphasized the value added of "informal informal" consultations as a tool to reach consensus.

*Role of the Secretariat*

233. The Secretariat plays an active role in promoting action by the Committee. This is accomplished by permitting representatives from the substantive offices concerned to attend both the formal and informal meetings of the Committee in order to respond to questions and provide additional information and clarification as necessary. At its forty-sixth session, the Committee emphasized the need for the presence of senior programme managers to assist it in the deliberations on agenda items pertaining to the areas of their respective responsibilities. For the role of the Secretariat in preparing the draft reports, see paragraph 231 above.

*Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme*

234. The Committee begins its consideration of a specific agenda item by hearing an introduction by the Secretariat. It then holds a discussion on the item.

*Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions*

235. There are no panel discussions in the Committee. At the conclusion of its general discussion or general debate, representatives from the Secretariat answer questions

raised by Member States and may also provide additional clarifications and explanations relating to concerns expressed during the general discussion.

236. At its forty-seventh session, the Committee decided to devote one or two meetings of its session to a discussion, with high-level participation, of a specific issue in its programme of work related to coordination.

*Relationship with other intergovernmental bodies*

237. At its fortieth session, the Committee reiterated its recommendation that the relevant intergovernmental bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and the Main Committees of the General Assembly, should include in their programme of work an agenda item on programme planning for review of the programme plan and its revisions, in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and regulation 3.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (see also paras. 219–222 above).

## 2. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Website: csonet.org/?menu=105

*Terms of reference*

238. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was established by the Council in its resolution 3 (II) of 21 June 1946. Its original terms of reference were set out in Council resolution 288 B (X) of 27 February 1950, which was superseded by Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 25 May 1968. The current terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

239. The Committee carries out the functions assigned to it by the Council in connection with the arrangements for consultations with NGOs adopted by the Council in accordance with Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations, as reflected in Council resolution 1996/31. In its proceedings, including when considering applications for granting consultative status to NGOs, the Committee is guided by the rules of procedure of the Council.

240. The main functions of the Committee are:

(a) Considering applications for general consultative status and special consultative status and for listing on the Roster made by NGOs and requests for a change in status, and to making recommendations thereon to the Council;

(b) Monitoring, on a regular basis, evolving relationships between NGOs and the United Nations;

(c) Examining, every fourth year, a brief report submitted to it, through the Secretary-General, by organizations in general consultative status and in special consultative status, of their activities in support of the work of the United Nations, and making recommendations to the Council thereon;

(d) Considering matters concerning NGOs that may be referred to it by the Council or by its commissions.

241. Furthermore, the Committee consults, in connection with sessions of the Council or at such other times as it may decide, with organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on matters within their competence, other than items on the agenda of the Council, on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation, and reports thereon to the Council.

242. The Committee also consults, in connection with any particular session of the Council, with organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on matters within the competence of the organizations concerning specific items already in the provisional agenda of the Council on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation, and makes recommendations as to which organizations should be heard by the Council or the appropriate committee and regarding which subjects should be heard. The Committee reports to the Council on such consultations.

243. The Committee also makes recommendations to the Council as to which organizations in general consultative status should make an oral presentation to the Council and on which items they should be heard. In the absence of a subsidiary body of the Council with jurisdiction in a major field of interest to the Council and to organizations in special consultative status, the Committee may recommend that an organization in special consultative status be heard by the Council on a subject in its field of interest.

*Membership and composition*

244. The Committee has 19 members (Council resolution 1981/50 of 20 July 1981), which are elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. The membership of the Committee consists of:

(a) Five members from African States;

(b) Four members from Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Two members from Eastern European States;

(d) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Four members from Western European and other States.

*Term of office*

245. In accordance with Council decision 70 (ORG-75) of 28 January 1975, the term of office of members is four years.

*Reporting procedure*

246. The Committee reports directly to the Council (rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Council).

*Frequency of meetings*

247. The Committee meets annually for three weeks, for its regular and resumed sessions (Council decisions 1995/304 of 26 July 1995 and 1997/297 of 23 July 1997). Usually, the Committee holds 30 formal meetings annually, 16 of them in the regular session and 14 in the resumed session. The Committee also holds informal meetings prior to each session for the purpose of clarifying matters arising from applications for consultative status. All public meetings of the Committee are webcast (Council decision 2017/216 of 19 April 2017).

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

248. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, each year, at the commencement of its first meeting, the Committee elects its Chair and four Vice-Chairs. In accordance with rule 19, Bureau members are eligible for re-election. One of the Vice-Chairs is subsequently designated to serve also as Rapporteur.

249. In electing the Bureau, regard should be given to the principle of equitable geographical rotation.

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations*

250. At the first formal meeting of the session, the Chair encourages the Committee to adopt its decisions by consensus. If requested, the Committee decides on proposals by a recorded roll-call vote. Otherwise, it takes action through resolutions and decisions adopted by consensus. While the majority of the Committee decisions are taken by consensus, recorded roll-call votes are conducted on proposals to recommend to the Council to grant, suspend or withdrew consultative status to organizations as well as on procedural questions.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

251. Informal consultations may take place on an ad hoc basis.

*Role of the Secretariat*

252. The Secretariat traditionally assists the members of the Committee by providing substantive (NGO Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) and technical (Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management) secretariat support. The NGO Branch conducts an initial review of the applications for consultative status submitted by NGOs to ensure that they align with th. requirements of Council resolution 1996/31 and processes the documentation required by the Committee during its sessions. The initial review includes communicating with NGOs and ensuring that applications are complete and ready for consideration by the Committee. The number of new applications for consultative status has risen exponentially, from 143 in 2009 to 747 in 2017. Throughout the year, the NGO Branch also reviews and processes quadrennial reports submitted to the Committee by NGOs in consultative status. The number of the quadrennial reports received in 2017 stood at 554, up from 204 in 2009. The technica' secretariat provides organizational and procedural support to the Committee, including through the issuance of pre-session documentation, the provision of advice to and 'rafting of procedural notes for presiding officers and the Bureau on the rules of procedure and past practice and preparing the procedural reports of the regular and resumed sessions.

*Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme*

253. There is no general debate in the Committee.

*Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions*

254. In its consideration of applications from NGOs for consultative status with the Council, the Committee provides an opportunity for delegations, members or non-members of the Committee to pose questions to the representatives of the organizations presenting applications during question-and-answer sessions held regularly during its regular and resumed sessions.

### 3. Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies

255. The Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies was established by the Council in its resolution 11 (I) of 16 February 1946 in order to carry out negotiations with intergovernmental agencies with a view to bringing them into relationship with the United Nations in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter. The Committee last met in 2003 in connection with the draft agreement between the United Nations and the World Touris.a Organization (see docu ent

E/2003/12, Council decision 2003/215 A of 25 March 2003 and decision 2003/215 B of 1 May 2003 and Council resolution 2003/2 of 10 July 2003).

## D. Ad hoc bodies

### 1. Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics (no longer meets)

256. By resolution 1995/61 of 28 July 1995, the Council requested its President to convene initially for one year, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics, to make appropriate recommendations for the due fulfilment of the provisions of its resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States. The functions of the Working Group were outlined by the Council in its resolution 2000/28 of 28 July 2000. The Council renewed the mandate of the Working Group every year from 1996 to 2011 (Council resolution 2010/38 of 15 December 2010).

### 2. Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

257. By its resolution 1999/4 of 7 May 1999, the Economic and Social Council decided to create an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, and requested it to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 recommendations on how to ensure that international community assistance to the efforts to support the Government of Haiti in achieving sustainable development was adequate, coherent, well coordinated and effective. The Group is composed of the Permanent Representatives of Canada (Chair), Argentina, Benin, the Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America and Uruguay. By its decision 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, the Council decided that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would invite the participation of the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti in its work.

258. The mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group has been renewed annually by the Council, most recently in resolution 2018/19 of 24 July 2018, in which the Council extended the mandate of the Group until the conclusion of the 2019 session, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms.

## E. Expert bodies composed of governmental experts

### 1. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Website: www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.html

*Terms of reference*

259. A Committee of experts on the international transport of dangerous goods was first appointed in accordance with Council resolution 468 G (XV) of 15 April 1953 to study the issue and present a report. The mandate of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods was subsequently expanded (see Council resolutions 1488 (XLVIII) of 22 May 1970, 1743 (LIV) of 4 May 1973 and 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975). A group of experts on explosives was also created by the

Council in resolution 724 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959 to deal with the listing and harmonizing of the packing of explosives. By resolution 1488 (XLVIII), the Council decided that the Group should function as a subsidiary body of the Committee. A Group of Rapporteurs on the Packing of Dangerous Goods was set up by the Committee at its third session, and the creation of this subsidiary body was endorsed by the Council when approving the report of the Committee on its third session (Council resolution 994 (XXXVI) of 16 December 1963). This group was renamed "Group of Rapporteurs" in 1975. In 1989, the Group of Rapporteurs and the Group of Experts on Explosives were combined and renamed Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (see Council resolution 1989/104 of 27 July 1989). Since 1963, the Economic Commission for Europe at Geneva has served as the secretariat of the Committee.

260. On the basis of a proposal transmitted by the President of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (E/1999/90) and of the related recommendations of the Committee (E/1999/43, para. 21), the Council, by resolution 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, reconfigured, as from 2001, the Committee and its Subcommittee into the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, with one Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and a second Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

261. The terms of reference of the Committee, which are contained in the annex to resolution 1999/65, are as follows:

> The Committee shall deal with strategic issues rather than technical issues. It is not envisaged that it will review, change or revisit technical recommendations of the Subcommittees. Accordingly, its main functions shall be to:
>
> (a) Approve the work programmes for the Subcommittees in the light of available resources;
>
> (b) Coordinate strategic and policy directions in areas of shared interests and overlap;
>
> (c) Give formal endorsement to the recommendations of the Subcommittees and provide the mechanism for channelling them to the Economic and Social Council;
>
> (d) Facilitate and coordinate the smooth running of the Subcommittees.

*Subsidiary bodies of the Committee of Experts*

*(i) Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*

262. In pursuance of Council resolution 1999/65, the Subcommittee replaced the existing Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and its Subcommittee, with the same terms of reference. The original terms of reference are contained in Council resolution 468 G (XV). They have been subsequently modified, confirmed or extended in the various resolutions adopted by the Council when considering the work of the Committee every two years, as reflected, inter alia, in paragraphs 166 to 175 of E/1996/97, Council resolutions 645 G (XXIII) of 26 April 1957, 724 C (XXVIII), 871 (XXXIII) of 10 April 1962, 994 (XXXVI) of 16 December 1963, 1488 (XLVIII), 1743 (LIV), 1744 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, 1973 (LIX), 2050 (LXII) of 5 May 1977 and, in addition, Council resolutions 1995/6 of 19 July 1995, 1997/3 of 18 July 1997 (referring to E/1997/16, para. 21), 1999/62 of 30 July 1999 (referring to document E/1999/43, para. 34).

263. As consolidated, the terms of reference can be summarized as follows:

(a) To recommend and to define groupings or classification of dangerous goods on the basis of the character of risk involved, and to develop related classification tests and criteria;

(b) To list the principal dangerous goods moving in commerce and assigning each to its proper grouping or classification;

(c) To recommend marks or labels for each grouping or classification, which shall identify the risk graphically and without regard to printed text;

(d) To recommend the simplest possible requirements for shipping papers covering dangerous goods;

(e) To address the problem of packing (including construction, testing and use of packagings, intermediate bulk containers, large packagings, gas cylinders and gas receptacles);

(f) To study the questions concerning the construction, testing and use of tanks other than those permanently fixed to, or forming part of, the structure of seagoing vessels or inland waterway craft;

(g) To develop provisions for the transport of solid substances in bulk in freight containers;

(h) To address the problem of the joint transport of dangerous goods, including questions of compatibility and segregation;

(i) To consider giving each of the dangerous goods a numerical designation, which, in addition to the "dangerous goods" label would indicate the group of compatibility, which could be instrumental in the solution of the problems of the joint transportation of dangerous goods;

(j) To consider supplementing the list of dangerous goods with indications of the properties and the category of danger of such goods, the firefighting means, other safety measures regarding such goods and their packing;

(k) To investigate divergencies existing in the modal practices applicable to the transport of dangerous goods in respect of their classification, identification, labelling and packaging;

(l) To study, in consultation with other organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the regional commissions, the possibility of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport;

(m) To take into account the special problems of developing countries;

(n) To elaborate proposals for globally harmonized criteria for the classification of flammable, explosive and reactive materials, taking account of aspects not necessarily covered under transport safety regulations, such as the protection of workers, consumers and the general environment, in cooperation with experts from the International Labour Organization and the International Programme on Chemical Safety;

(o) To cooperate with the International Programme of Chemical Safety for the implementation of Agenda 21;

(p) To reformat the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to keep them up to date and to rationalize their development.

264. In March 1959, the Committee, after having developed recommendations concerning the labelling of radioactive material, recognized the necessity of coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the drafting of recommendations relating to the transport of such material. Consequently, the Council, in its resolution 724 (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, requested the Secretary-General to inform IAEA of its desire that IAEA be entrusted with the drafting of recommendations on the transport of radioactive material, on the understanding that those recommendations would be consistent with the principles adopted by the Committee and that they would be established in consultation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned. This has led to continuous cooperation among the Committee, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and ECE. When it was decided to reformat the provisions of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, it was also agreed, after consultation with IAEA, that the Committee would incorporate the provisions of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material into the Model Regulations (Council resolution 1997/3).

*(ii) Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*

265. As set forth in the annex to Council resolution 1999/65, the functions of the Subcommittee are to:

(a) Act as custodian of the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals, managing and giving direction to the harmonization process;

(b) Keep the system up to date, as necessary, considering the need to introduce changes to ensure its continued relevance and practical utility, and determining the need for and timing of the updating of technical criteria, while working with existing bodies, as appropriate;

(c) Promote understanding and use of the system and encourage feedback;

(d) Make the system available for worldwide use and application;

(e) Make guidance available on the application of the system, and on the interpretation and use of technical criteria to support consistency of application;

(f) Prepare work programmes and submit recommendations to the Committee.

*Composition and membership*

266. Under Council resolution 645 G (XXIII), the original Committee was to consist of "not more than nine qualified experts from countries interested in the international transport of dangerous goods". Governments were invited to make available, at the request of the Secretary-General and at their own expense, the members of the Committee of Experts. The Council, in its resolution 1973 (LIX), enlarged the composition of the Committee of Experts by adding five members from developing countries, so as to ensure the adequate participation of such countries. Subsequently, the Secretary-General received applications from various countries. In 2017, 40 countries were full members of the Committee and members of one or both of the Subcommittees. In the same year, five observer countries participated in their work in accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

*Reporting procedure*

267. The Secretary-General submits to the Council, on a biennial basis, a report on the work of the Committee of Experts.

*Frequency of meetings*

268. As from 2001–2002, the reconfigured Committee meets on a biennial basis, while the two Subcommittees meet back-to-back, twice each year.

## 2. Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

Website: isar.unctad.org/

*Terms of reference*

269. The Council, in its resolution 1979/44 of 11 May 1979, established the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. By resolution 1982/67 of 27 October 1982, the Council established the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, deciding that it should: (a) serve as an international body for the consideration of issues of accounting and reporting falling within the scope of the work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, in order to improve the availability and comparability of information disclosed by transnational corporations; (b) review developments in this field, including the work of standard-setting bodies; and (c) concentrate on establishing priorities, taking into account the needs of home and host countries, particularly those of developing countries.

270. In addition, the Council decided that the Group should meet for a period of two weeks not more than once a year and should report to the Commission on Transnational Corporations on further steps to be taken in pursuit of the long-term objective of the international harmonization of accounting and reporting within the scope of the work of the Commission, particularly with regard to the comprehensive information system and the code of conduct on transnational corporations then being formulated, on the understanding that duplication of work should be avoided. In its resolution 1991/56 of 26 July 1991, the Council decided that the Commission, at its annual session, should keep under review the work of the Group and, in particular, should review the mandate, terms of reference and achievements of the Group after five years, with a view to deciding on the advisability of its continuation.

271. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/130 of 19 December 1994, the Intergovernmental Working Group, along with the Commission on Transnational Corporations, has been incorporated into the institutional machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

*Membership and composition*

272. In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of Council resolution 1982/67, the Group, taking into account the different existing systems of accounting and reporting and without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, is composed of 34 members elected by the Council on the following basis:

(a) Nine members from African States;

(b) Seven members from Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Three members from Eastern European States;

(d) Six members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Nine members from Western European and other States.

Pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of the same resolution, each State so elected shall appoint an expert with appropriate experience in the field of accounting and reporting.

273. Greater participation of all member States of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the discussions of the Group is encouraged in order to maximize the involvement of non-member States. In addition, United Nations bodies and organs, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs and international experts in the area of accounting and reporting may participate as observers in the work of the Working Group.

*Term of office*

274. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 1982/67, para. 4 (d)).

*Reporting procedure*

275. The Group reports to the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, a subsidiary body of the Trade and Development Board.

*Frequency of meetings*

276. The Group meets annually (Council resolution 1982/67), usually for three working days.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

277. The Group elects the Chair and Vice-Chair at the beginning of its annual session. The Vice-Chair is subsequently designated to serve as Rapporteur. The members of the Bureau are elected for a term that lasts until the opening of the next annual session.

*Programme and working methods*

278. The Group takes action through agreed conclusions adopted by consensus. The report of the Group consists of two parts: (a) an account of the discussions; and (b) agreed conclusions. The part reflecting the discussions sets out the views expressed during the annual sessions with respect to specific matters. All drafts should be provided to the Chair and Rapporteur prior to circulation so as to ensure that the reports accurately reflect those views. The section on the agreed conclusions contains the agreement reached on issues raised under specific agenda items.

*Utilization of informal consultations*

279. Informal consultations may take place on an ad hoc basis in order to facilitate the consensus.

*Role of the Secretariat*

280. The Secretariat plays a proactive role in promoting action by the Group. It assists the Group in substantive, organizational and procedural matters; prepares background documentation for annual sessions; and provides preliminary draft proposals based on the views expressed by the delegations during the meetings.

281. The Group holds panel discussions with the participation of invited lead experts followed by a general debate on the agenda items proposed in the agreed conclusions of the previous sessions.

### 3. United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Website: unstats.un.org/UNSD/geoinfo/UNGEGN/general.html

*Terms of reference*

282. The Council, in its resolution 715 A (XXVII) of 23 April 1959, requested the Secretary-General to set up a small group of consultants to consider the technical problems of domestic standardization of geographical names, including the preparation of a statement of the general and regional problems involved, to prepare draft recommendations for the procedures, principally linguistic, that might be followed in the standardization of their own names by individual countries and to report to the Council on the desirability of holding an international conference on this subject and of the sponsoring of working groups based on common linguistic systems.

283. The First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held at Geneva from 4 to 22 September 1967. On the basis of the recommendations of the Conference, the Council, in its resolution 1314 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968, approved the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Group of Experts, which was renamed United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names by the Council in a decision adopted at its 1854th meeting, 4 May 1973.

284. In its decision 1988/116 of 25 May 1988, the Council approved the statute and rules of procedure of the Group of Experts (E/1988/22, annex II). In its decision 1993/226 of 12 July 1993, the Council approved a new version of the statute (E/1993/21 and Corr.1, annex).

285. In its resolution 2018/2 of 10 November 2017, the Council decided that the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names would be discontinued in their current formats and be subsumed by a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council that would retain their respective mandates, where relevant, as well as resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and responsibility for the implementation thereof, would be named the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, which would be composed of representatives of States Members of the United Nations, including experts appointed by Governments, and would focus on technical issues associated with the standardization of geographical names that might, where appropriate, support relevant aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

286. The basic aims of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To emphasize the importance of the standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels and to demonstrate the benefits to be derived from such standardization;

(b) To collect the results of the work of national and international bodies dealing with the standardization of geographical names and to facilitate the dissemination of these results to States Members of the United Nations;

(c) To study and propose principles, policies and methods suitable for resolving problems of national and international standardization;

(d) To play an active role, by facilitating the supply of scientific and technical help, in particular to developing countries, in creating mechanisms for the national and international standardization of geographical names;

(e) To provide a vehicle for liaison and coordination among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations, on work associated with the standardization of geographical names.

287. To further the aims stated above, the functions of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To develop procedures and establish mechanisms for standardization in response to national requirements and particular requests;

(b) To encourage the discussion and study of practical and theoretical steps directed towards standardization;

(c) To coordinate the activities of linguistic/geographical divisions formed to further the work at the national level, to encourage the active participation of countries and divisions, and to promote a degree of uniformity in the work undertaken;

(d) To create any necessary structure to supplement the work of divisions and to deal with issues beyond the scope of a division;

(e) To develop appropriate programmes to assist individual countries and groups of countries to achieve standardization where it is lacking;

(f) To make mapping organizations aware of the importance of using standardized geographical names;

(g) To maintain liaison with international organizations dealing with related subjects and encourage group divisions to participate in the United Nations regional or other cartographic conferences;

(h) To work at the highest possible national, international and United Nations level to interrelate toponymy and cartography;

(i) To make standardization principles and standardized geographical names available as practical information for as wide a user community as possible, through all appropriate media.

*Membership and composition*

288. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names as established by Council resolution 2018/2, is composed of representatives of States Members of the United Nations, including experts appointed by Governments.

*Reporting procedure*

289. In its resolution 2018/2, the Council decided that the rules of procedure would be drafted by the Bureau, in close consultation with the States Members of the United Nations, and be presented to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. The rules of procedure of the Group were approved by the Council in its decision 2018/264 of 24 July 2018.

*Frequency of meetings*

290. In its resolution 2018/2, the Council decided that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names would convene biennial sessions, in principle, over a period of five days, beginning in 2019, with the full authority to set its strategic direction and adopt resolutions to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and to be able to address the needs of a rapidly changing and expanding technical environment in a timely manner, and that the Group of Experts would convene its sessions in New York, with the option to convene sessions at an alternative United Nations venue or in a specific country, should a Member State commit to hosting and funding the session.

*Election of the Bureau*

291. In its resolution 2018/2, the Council decided that the elected Bureau of the Group of Experts would be maintained to oversee the 2017–2019 transition, on an exceptional basis and that the rules of procedure would be drafted by the Bureau, in close consultation with the States Members of the United Nations, and be presented to the Economic and Social Council for adoption, in line with the procedures of relevant Council bodies, in advance of the first session of the Group of Experts, and that these rules would be the subject of an open negotiation process and would cover, among other matters, the identification of the structure of the Bureau, election methods and terms of service.

## 4. Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Website: http://ggim.un.org/

292. The Council established the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management in its resolution 2011/24 on 27 July 2011. This followed an extensive three-year consultative process with geospatial information experts from Member States and relevant stakeholders that recognized the urgent need to take concrete action to strengthen international cooperation in the area of global geospatial information management (see E/2011/89).

293. The Committee of Experts is a formal intergovernmental mechanism of government experts from Member States and experts from relevant international organizations who participate as observers. The Committee is served by a secretariat comprising the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Geospatial Information Section (formerly the Cartographic Section), Information and Communications Technology Division of the Department of Field Support.

294. On 27 July 2016, following a year-long consultative process on the comprehensive review of the work and operations of the Committee of Experts, the Council, in its resolution 2016/27, broadened and strengthened the mandate of the Committee as the relevant body on geospatial information consisting of experts from Member States, and invited the Committee to report to the Council on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics under the Council agenda item "Geospatial information".

*Terms of reference*

295. In accordance with Council resolution 2011/24, the terms of reference of the Committee of Experts are:

(a) To provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations, on enhanced cooperation in the field of global geospatial information management;

(b) To propose workplans and guidelines with a view to promoting common principles, policies, methods, mechanisms and standards for the interoperability and interchangeability of geospatial data and services;

(c) To provide a platform for the development of effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacity concerning geospatial information, especially in developing countries, and, in this regard, to assist interested countries in developing the full potential of geospatial information and the underlying technology;

(d) To compile and disseminate best practices and experiences of national, regional and international bodies on geospatial information related, inter alia, to legal

instruments, management models and technical standards, thus contributing to the establishment of spatial data infrastructures, while allowing for flexibility in the development of national geospatial activities.

296. In July 2016, the Council recognized that the Committee was well placed to contribute more to the work of the United Nations, especially in the context of efforts to assist Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its resolution 2016/27, the Council, inter alia:

(a) Stressed the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data-sharing, among others, through appropriate coordination mechanisms, including in the broader United Nations system;

(b) Decided that the substantive mandates and obligations of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas would be assumed by the Committee of Experts at the global level, and their technical and substantive activities at the regional and national levels assumed by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, respectively;

(c) Requested that the regional commissions provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional bodies of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management and that the outcomes and benefits of the activities of those bodies be equally disseminated to all Member States in each region;

(d) Decided to change the title of the item on the Council's agenda from "Cartography" to "Geospatial information", and invited the Committee of Experts to report on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics.

*Membership and composition*

297. In accordance with resolution 2011/24 and the terms of reference contained in the annex thereto, the Committee comprises experts from all Member States, as well as experts from international organizations as observers. In appointing their national representatives, Member States seek to designate experts with specific knowledge drawn from the interrelated fields of surveying, geography, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental protection.

*Reporting procedure*

298. The Committee of Experts reports directly to the Economic and Social Council under the Council agenda item "Geospatial information". Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Frequency of meetings*

299. In accordance with resolution 2011/24 and the terms of reference contained in the annex thereto, the Committee meets annually, usually for three days in early August each year at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

300. The Committee may hold, under exceptional circumstances, additional meetings, as appropriate.

*Participation in meetings*

301. Each Member State participating in a session of the Committee shall be represented by a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives, experts and advisers as may be required. The head of delegation who represents the Member State shall be the full member of the Committee, with voting rights; the other accredited representatives, alternate representatives, experts and advisers may participate, without the right to vote, in the discussions at meetings of the Committee.

302. Representatives of associate members of the regional economic commissions that are not independent States may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Committee and its sessions.

303. Representatives of the specialized agencies invited to the session may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the session, on the invitation of the President of the session, on questions within the scope of their activities.

304. Non-Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and other intergovernmental organizations designated on a continuing basis by the Council or invited by the Committee shall have the right to participate in the session as observers, without the right to vote.

305. NGOs that have been granted consultative status with the Council as well as NGOs accredited to participate in the session may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the session and may participate in the activities of the session when so invited by the Committee.

*Election and term of office of the Bureau*

306. The Committee elects three Co-Chairs[19] and a Rapporteur during each session from among its members, with due regard for the equitable geographical rotation of these officers from among the regions. The Co-Chairs and the Rapporteur shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee.

*Global to regional coordination architecture*

307. The Committee, in its first five years, successfully created an architecture to capture the "national to regional to global" issues and perspectives strongly linked to the mandates of the Committee of Experts.

308. The architecture was completed during the fifth session of the Committee, held from 5 to 7 August 2015, when the regional committee for Africa was formally established. The five regional committees, in Africa, the Americas, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe, provide the anchor and mechanism to promote, discuss and enhance coordination among Member States in the regions on issues of importance to Member States and the Committee and to liaise with the Secretariat and regional commissions in the intervening periods between annual sessions of the Committee of Experts.

309. Regional committees of the Committee of Experts meet annually, usually between two to four days, depending on the region.

[19] At the 1st meeting of its fourth session, held on 6 August 2014, the Committee of Experts adopted its rules of procedure as contained in document E/C.20/2014/2, following revision for the selection of the Co-Chairs (E/2014/46-E/C.20/2014/15, chap. V.F).

*Programme of work*

310. The resolution entitled "A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development"[20] called for greater cooperation on geodesy, including the open sharing of relevant geodetic data, and outlined the value of ground-based observations and remote satellite sensing when tracking changes in populations, ice caps, land use, oceans and the atmosphere over time to support sustainable development policymaking, climate science, natural disaster management, peace and security. Such measurements also have a wide range of applications for construction, transport including autonomous vehicles, and other areas of national economies.

311. The synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700) called for an evidence-based course for realizing sustainable development that is grounded in the data revolution. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, that course of action must be inclusive of the need to "accelerate the development and adoption of legal, technical, geospatial and statistical standards".[21] The Committee recognized the clear need for and value of standards and the linking of geospatial information and statistics to improve the relevance of the evidence on which decisions are made, to deal with new, richer and multidimensional data, and to provide multi-sourced, multi-scaled evidence-based data and information for decision-making and policymaking.

312. Recognizing that data are fundamental to measuring and monitoring the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing the science-policy-information nexus, the 2030 Agenda specifically demands new approaches to data acquisition and integration to improve the accessibility, availability, quality and timeliness of data disaggregated by geographic location to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels. Further, the 2030 Agenda refers to the need to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observations and geospatial information (General Assembly resolution 70/1). While addressing these challenges relating to data availability and implementation directly in its work programme, the Committee further acknowledged the need for greater coordination and collaboration to develop an overarching geospatial information management framework that went beyond technical matters and that countries could reference when implementing integrated evidence-based decision-making solutions that maximized and leveraged national systems tailored to their own situations. The Committee is developing such a geospatial information framework in collaboration with the World Bank.

313. The Committee of Experts agreed that its 2017–2021 strategic framework[22] provided a reference for prioritizing the work of the Committee and a tangible means to communicate its work. The work programmes of the Committee are organized and reviewed annually by the Committee with the overarching goal of strengthening national geospatial information management.

*General discussion in the work programme*

314. The Committee holds a general discussion on each item of its agenda.

[20] Council resolution 2014/31 of 17 November 2014 and General Assembly resolution 69/266 of 26 February 2015.

[21] "A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development", available at www.undatarevolution.org/report/.

[22] See decision 7/101 on strengthening geospatial information management (E/2017/46-E/C.20/2017/18).

*Modalities for taking action and format for recommendation*

315. The Committee endeavours to take action by consensus, although there is provision for decisions of the session to be made by a majority of the representatives present and through voting if necessary.

316. The Committee takes action through the adoption of decisions and, on occasion, action-oriented resolutions with recommendations to the Economic and Social Council.[23]

*Utilization of informal consultations*

317. The practice of the Committee is to hold informal consultations on all draft proposals, reports and outcomes of reviews.

318. The Committee, in accordance with Council resolution 2011/24, holds regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies. This includes high-level forums on United Nations global geospatial information management (of which five have been convened since 2011) and a United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, which will be convened for the first time in November 2018.

319. In accordance with Council resolutions 2011/24 and 2016/27, the Committee organizes ministerial segments, high-level panels and expert sessions in its global forums to promote interactive dialogue and knowledge- and experience-sharing, as well as coordination and coherence in global geospatial information management.

## Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity

### Committee for Development Policy

Website: www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/our-work/committee-for-development-policy.html

*Terms of reference*

320. In its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, the Council decided that the Committee for Development Planning should be renamed the Committee for Development Policy. The Committee for Development Planning had been created by the Council in its resolution 1035 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964, which requested the Secretary-General "to consider, as the work of United Nations bodies on economic planning and projections progressed, the establishment of a group of experts in planning theory and practice to work as a consultative body within the United Nations". Its original terms of reference are contained in paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1079 (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965 and were subsequently modified in various resolutions.

321. In accordance with paragraph 10 of its resolution 1998/46, the Council decides on an appropriate work programme for the Committee and advises it each year about the theme or themes that the Committee should consider at its annual session. The Council takes the decision on the theme or themes at its substantive session (Council resolution 1999/51 of 29 July 1999).

[23] For example, Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/31 and General Assembly resolution 69/266 (E/2014/46-E/C.20/2014/15, chap. I.A)

322. The functions of the Committee are as follows:

(a) Continue the triennial review of the status of the least developed countries;

(b) Consider issues identified by the Council;

(c) Submit a report to the Council at its substantive session, including the outcome of its deliberations on the theme or themes identified by the Council and proposals concerning its work programme for the following year.

323. The General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the subsidiary bodies of the Council can also propose, through the Council, issues for consideration by the Committee.

*Membership and composition*

324. In accordance with paragraph 8 of Council resolution 1998/46, the Committee comprises 24 independent experts. They are nominated by the Secretary-General, after consultation with interested Governments, and are appointed by the Council. The experts are drawn from the fields of economic development, social development and environmental protection, in order to avoid the need to engage the assistance of consultants and so as to reflect an adequate geographical and gender balance.

*Term of office*

325. The term of office of the experts is three years.

*Reporting procedure*

326. The Committee reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Frequency of meetings*

327. In accordance with Council resolution 1998/46, the Committee meets annually for a period not exceeding five working days. Once every three years, the Committee undertakes a review of the list of the least developed countries and makes recommendations for changes to the Economic and Social Council.

## 2. Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Website: publicadministration.un.org/en/CEPA

*Terms of reference*

328. The Council, in its resolution 1199 (XLII) of 24 May 1967, requested the Secretary-General to elaborate more specific objectives and programmes in the field of public administration, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned. It also decided that the United Nations programme in public administration should from time to time be reviewed by a meeting of experts and that the report of the meeting should be submitted to it for consideration.

329. In subsequent resolutions, the Council invited the Secretary-General to convene meetings of the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance and assigned the Group specific guidelines for consideration. Those guidelines have included, in particular, an examination of changes and trends in public administration and finance at both the national and international levels, a review of issues and priorities in public administration and

finance for development in developing countries, and the progress achieved in implementing the relevant provisions of the International Development Strategy.

330. Following the resumed fiftieth session of the General Assembly on public administration and development and guided by the resulting resolution 50/225 of 19 April 1996, the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Group of Experts were convened in 1997 and 1998, respectively, to assist in the implementation of the decisions taken by the Assembly. At its fourteenth meeting, the Group recommended that the Secretary-General conduct a five-year assessment of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 50/225 and to report his findings to the Assembly through the Council in 2001. The Assembly endorsed that recommendation in its resolution 53/201 of 15 December 1998.

331. At its fifteenth meeting, held from 8 to 12 May 2000, the Group of Experts made a number of recommendations on its status and reporting arrangements, which were endorsed by the Council in decision 2000/231 of 27 July 2000.

332. In paragraph 1 of the annex to its resolution 2001/45 of 20 December 2001, the Council decided that the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance should be renamed the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and should continue to be a subsidiary body of the Council, without change in its mandate.

333. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 2013/23 of 24 July 2013, the Council noted that the Committee had a role in supporting the Council in addressing the global development agenda, bearing in mind the need for expert and insightful global advice on governance and public administration in its various dimensions, and encouraged the Committee to remain involved in and to contribute to the relevant intergovernmental and expert processes relating to the post-2015 development agenda and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as appropriate.

334. Further, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 2016/26 of 27 July 2016, the Council invited the Committee to place the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the centre of its work and to advise the Council on how public administrations could support the implementation and progress reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals.

*Membership, composition and term of office*

335. In paragraph 2 of the annex to its resolution 2001/45, the Council decided that the Committee would comprise 24 experts, who would serve in their personal capacity. The experts are nominated by the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, and appointed by the Council. The membership is drawn from the interrelated fields of public economics, public administration and public finance and is to reflect an adequate geographical and gender balance. The term of office of members is four years.

*Reporting procedure*

336. The Committee reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 2001/45, annex, para. 4). Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Frequency of meetings*

337. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Council resolution 2003/60 of 25 July 2003, the Committee meets annually for one week.

## 3. Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Website: www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd-follow-up/tax-committee.html

*Terms of reference*

338. The Council, in its resolution 1273 (XLIII) of 4 August 1967, requested the Secretary-General to set up a group of experts to explore, in consultation with interested international agencies, ways and means for facilitating the conclusion of tax treaties between developed and developing countries, including the formulation, as appropriate, of possible guidelines and techniques for use in such tax treaties that would be acceptable to both groups of countries and would fully safeguard their respective revenue interests.

339. In its resolution 1765 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council requested the Ad Hoc Group to continue its work on guidelines for tax treaties between developed and developing countries and to study the implementation of tax agreements in such areas as income allocation, international tax evasion and avoidance and tax incentives. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for convening the Ad Hoc Group at regular intervals.

340. In its resolution 1980/13 of 28 April 1980, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his report (E/1980/11 and Corr.1, para. 52) that, since the Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries had finalized the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, it should be given a broader title. The Council also advised that the name of the Group had been changed to Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. In the same resolution, the Council urged the Ad Hoc Group of Experts to expedite its work on international tax evasion and avoidance with a view to working out, as soon as possible, proposals for international cooperation to combat such evasion and avoidance.

341. In its decision 2000/232 of 27 July 2000, the Council endorsed the recommendations made by the Group of Experts at its ninth meeting, which included keeping under a biennial revision process the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries.

342. In its resolution 2004/69 of 11 November 2004, the Council decided, inter alia, that:

(a) The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be renamed the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters;

(b) The Committee should:

(i) Keep under review and update as necessary the *United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries*[24] and the *Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries*;[25]

(ii) Provide a framework for dialogue with a view to enhancing and promoting international tax cooperation among national tax authorities;

[24] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVI.2.

[25] ST/ESA/PAD/SER.E/37.

(iii) Consider how new and emerging issues could affect international cooperation in tax matters and develop assessments, commentaries and appropriate recommendations;

(iv) Make recommendations on capacity-building and the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(v) Give special attention to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in dealing with all the above issues.

*Membership, composition and term of office*

343. In accordance with Council resolution 2004/69 and paragraph 29 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution 69/313), the Committee comprises 25 members nominated by Governments and acting in their expert capacity, who are drawn from the fields of tax policy and tax administration and selected to reflect an adequate equitable geographical distribution, representing different tax systems. The members are appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States.

*Reporting procedure*

344. The Committee reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 2004/69).

*Frequency of meetings*

345. In paragraph 29 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States emphasized the importance of inclusive cooperation and dialogue among national tax authorities on international tax matters and, in that regard, welcomed the work of the Committee, including its subcommittees, and decided to further enhance resources in order to strengthen its effectiveness and operational capacity, including through increasing the frequency of its meetings to two sessions per year, with a duration of four working days each, and increasing the engagement of the Committee with the Council through the special meeting on international cooperation in tax matters, with a view to enhancing intergovernmental consideration of tax issues. In accordance with those outcomes and Council resolution 2017/2 of 5 October 2016, the Committee now meets twice a year, with a duration of four working days for each session. One meeting is held in New York in the spring and the other in Geneva in the autumn.

## 4. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cescr/pages/cescrindex.aspx

*Terms of reference and working methods*

346. The Council, in its decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978, decided to establish a sessional working group on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the purpose of assisting the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant, in conformity with article 16 of the Covenant and in accordance with the programme established by the Council in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, under which the States parties were to furnish in biennial stages the reports referred to in article 16 of the Covenant.

347. The Council, in its resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979, also entrusted the Working Group with the task of considering the reports of the specialized agencies, submitted to the Council in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant and the programme established under Council resolution 1988 (LX), on the progress made in

achieving the observance of the provisions of the Covenant falling within the scope of their activities.

348. By Council resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982, the Working Group was renamed the "Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights". By Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, the Sessional Working Group was renamed the "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights".

349. The procedures and methods of work established by the Council in its resolutions 1988 (LX), 1979/43 and 1982/33, decision 1978/10 and decision 1981/158 of 8 May 1981 remain in force insofar as they are not superseded or modified by Council resolution 1985/17. The Council, in its decision 1990/251 of 25 May 1990, approved the Committee's provisional rules of procedure and also approved the holding of a pre-sessional working group of the Committee one to three months prior to the session.

350. Since its first session, in 1987, the Committee has made a concerted effort to devise appropriate working methods which adequately reflect the nature of the tasks with which it is entrusted. In the course of its sessions, it has sought to modify and develop these methods in the light of experience. These methods will continue to evolve.[26]

*Membership and composition*

351. In accordance with Council resolution 1985/17, the Committee has 18 members who are experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacity, due consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of different forms of social and legal systems; to this end, 15 seats are equally distributed among the regional groups, while the additional 3 seats are allocated in accordance with the increase in the total number of States parties per regional group. At the time of preparation of the present note, one additional seat each had been allocated to the African States, the Asia-Pacific States and the Latin American and the Caribbean States. The members of the Committee are elected by the Council from a list of persons nominated by States parties to the International Covenant. Members serve for a term of office of four years and may be re-elected.

*Frequency of meetings and reporting procedure*

352. The Committee usually holds two annual sessions, each of three weeks' duration (Council resolution 1995/39 of 25 July 1995) and reports directly to the Council. The Committee was granted additional meeting time for 2015–2017 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014 regarding strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the treaty body system. The report of the Committee is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. In view of the Committee's workload, the Council has approved the holding of pre-sessional working groups of one week's duration.

[26] For the most recent overview of the Committee's working methods, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 2* (E/2018/22-E/C.12/2017/3), chap. II.

## 5. Permanent Forum on Indigenous

Website: https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2.html\w

*Terms of reference*

353. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established by the Council in its resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000, as a subsidiary organ of the Council.

354. The Permanent Forum serves as an advisory body to the Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the mandate of the Council relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. In so doing, the Permanent Forum:

(a) Provides expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through the Council;

(b) Raises awareness and promotes the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the United Nations system;

(c) Prepares and disseminates information on indigenous issues.

355. In accordance with article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[27] the United Nations and its bodies, including the Permanent Forum, shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the Declaration and follow up its effectiveness.

*Membership and composition*

356. The Permanent Forum is composed of 16 members, according to the following pattern:

(a) Eight members nominated by Governments and elected by the Council, as follows, in conformity with Council decision 2016/205 of 12 November 2015:

(i) One seat for African States;

(ii) One seat for Asia-Pacific States;

(iii) One seat for Eastern European States;

(iv) One seat for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(v) One seat for Western European and other States;

(vi) Three seats to rotate, on a recurring basis, among the five regional groups in accordance with the following pattern:

| *Election 1* | *Election 2* | *Election 3* | *Election 4* | *Election 5* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Latin America and Caribbean | Africa | Western Europe and other | Eastern Europe | Asia-Pacific |
| Western Europe and other | Eastern Europe | Asia-Pacific | Latin America and Caribbean | Africa |
| Asia-Pacific | Latin America and Caribbean | Africa | Western Europe and other | Eastern Europe |

[27] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

(b) Eight members to be appointed by the President of the Council following formal consultations with the Bureau and regional groups through their coordinators, on the basis of broad consultations with indigenous organizations, taking into account the diversity and geographical distribution of the indigenous people of the world as well as the principles of transparency, representativity and equal opportunity for all indigenous people, including internal processes, when appropriate, and local indigenous consultation processes.

357. All members serve in their personal capacity as independent experts on indigenous issues.

358. In addition, States, United Nations bodies and organs, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs in consultative status with the Council may participate as observers in the work of the Forum. Organizations of indigenous people may equally participate as observers in accordance with the procedures that were applied in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights.

*Term of office*

359. Members serve for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election or reappointment for one further period.

*Reporting procedures*

360. The Permanent Forum submits an annual report to the Council on its activities, including any recommendations for approval. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

*Election of the Bureau*

361. By decision 2003/303 of 25 July 2003, the Council confirmed the practice of the Permanent Forum to designate as its Bureau one Chair, four Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur.

*Frequency of meetings, rules, decision-making, and review process*

362. In pursuance of Council resolution 2000/22, the Permanent Forum holds an annual session of 10 working days. It applies the rules of procedure established for subsidiary organs of the Council as applicable, unless otherwise decided by the Council. The principle of consensus governs the work of the Permanent Forum.

*Methods of work*

363. It is the practice of the Permanent Forum to select a special theme for consideration at each annual session and to examine the implementation of recommendations concerning its six mandated areas (economic and social development, environment, health, education, culture and human rights) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## G. Related bodies

### 1. International Narcotics Control Board

Website: www.incb.org/

*Terms of reference*

364. The International Narcotics Control Board was established pursuant to article 9 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[28] as amended by the 1972 Protocol.[29]

365. The Board, in cooperation with Governments, and subject to the terms of the Convention, endeavours to limit the cultivation, production, manufacture and use of drugs to an amount adequate for medical and scientific purposes, to ensure their availability for such purposes and to prevent the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of, and illicit trafficking in and use of, drugs (Single Convention, article 9, para. 4).

366. With the advent of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[30] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[31] the mandate of the Board was expanded. Under the 1971 Convention, the Board is given responsibilities similar to those conferred upon it in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, but with regard to psychotropic substances, namely, to monitor compliance by the States parties with the provisions of the 1971 Convention with respect to illicit traffic in psychotropic substances and make periodic reports to the Council and the States parties. Under article 12 of the 1988 Convention, the Board has specific responsibilities with regard to substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (precursors), particularly in the area of scheduling. In addition, in accordance with article 22, the Board monitors the implementation of the provisions of articles 12, 13 (materials and equipment) and 16 (commercial documents and labelling of exports) of the Convention and recommends remedial action, as necessary for the execution of the provisions of the Convention. Under article 23, the Board shall prepare annual reports, submitted to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on the implementation of the Convention in all matters related to its competence. In addition to the annual report called for under article 23, the Board is required under article 12, paragraph 13 of the 1988 Convention to report annually to the Commission on the implementation of article 12.

*Membership and composition*

367. In accordance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention, the Board consists of 13 members to be elected by the Council as follows:

(a) Three members with medical, pharmacological or pharmaceutical experience from a list of at least five persons nominated by the World Health Organization;

(b) Ten members from a list of persons nominated by the Members of the United Nations and by Parties to the Convention that are not Members of the United Nations.

[28] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.
[29] Ibid., vol. 796, No. 14152.
[30] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[31] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

368. The Council, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation, is to give consideration to the importance of including on the Board, in equitable proportion, persons possessing a knowledge of the drug situation in the producing, manufacturing and consuming countries, and connected with such countries (ibid., para. 3). In its resolution 1999/30, the Council invited Member States and the World Health Organization, when selecting candidates for the Board, to ensure the necessary multidisciplinary expertise and the required independence and impartiality for the effective discharge of the responsibilities of the Board.

*Term of office*

369. The term of office of members is five years and members may be re-elected (ibid., article 10, para. 1). The term of office of each member of the Board ends on the eve of the first meeting of the Board that his or her successor is entitled to attend (ibid., para. 2).

*Reporting procedure*

370. The report of the Board is submitted annually to the Council.

*Frequency of meetings*

371. The Board meets as often as, in its opinion, may be necessary for the proper discharge of its functions (ibid., article 11, para. 2). It usually holds two or three sessions in each calendar year.

## 2. Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Website: www.unaids.org/en/whoweare/pcb

*Terms of reference*

372. The Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was established by the Council in its resolution 1994/24 of 26 July 1994. By its resolution 1999/36 of 26 July 1999, the Council changed the name to Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

373. The Joint Programme comprises the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Labour Organization, the World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

374. The Programme outline is contained in the annex to Council resolution 1994/24.

375. Following its consideration of the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of the Programme (see E/1995/71), the Council, in its resolution 1995/2 of 3 July 1995, endorsed the arrangements for the Programme Coordinating Board as set out in section VI of that report. The Board serves as the governance structure for the Programme. Its functions are as follows:

(a) To establish broad policies and priorities for the Programme, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992;

(b) To review and decide upon the planning and execution of the Joint Programme. For this purpose, it shall be kept informed of all aspects of the development of the Joint Programme and consider reports and recommendations

submitted to it by the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations and the Executive Director;

(c) To review and approve the plan of action and budget for each financial period, prepared by the Executive Director and reviewed by the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations;

(d) To review proposals of the Executive Director and approve arrangements for the financing of the Joint Programme;

(e) To review longer-term plans of action and their financial implications;

(f) To review audited financial reports submitted by the Joint Programme;

(g) To make recommendations to the co-sponsoring organizations regarding their activities in support of the Joint Programme, including those of mainstreaming;

(h) To review periodic reports that will evaluate the progress of the Joint Programme towards the achievement of its goals.

376. Annual reports submitted to the Programme Coordinating Board on the work of the Joint Programme, together with any comments as the Programme Coordinating Board may wish to make, shall be made available to the governing bodies of each of the co-sponsoring organizations and the Council.

377. Legislative action by the General Assembly in regard to the Joint Programme includes the adoption, in 2001, of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[32] and, in 2006, of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;[33] in 2011, of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS[34] and in 2016, of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030.[35]

*Membership and composition*

378. The Board is composed of 22 Member States, with the participation of the 11 co-sponsors and five eligible NGOs. Member States are elected by the Council (Council decision 1995/223 of 5 May 1995) according to the following regional distribution:

(a) Five seats for African States;

(b) Five seats for Asia-Pacific States;

(c) Two seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Three seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Seven seats for Western European and other States.

379. The term of membership of these 22 members shall be three years. The initial terms of members shall vary in order to achieve a staggering of membership. After the initial elections, approximately one third of the membership shall be replaced annually.

380. Each of the co-sponsors shall have full rights of participation in the Programme Coordinating Board but without the right to vote.

381. Five NGOs, three from developing countries and two from the developed countries or countries with economies in transition, shall be invited to participate in

[32] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.
[33] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.
[34] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.
[35] General Assembly resolution 70/266, annex.

meetings of the Programme Coordinating Board but without the right to take part in the formal decision-making process and without the right to vote (Council resolution 1995/2 refers).

382. The selection of the five NGOs would be determined by the NGOs themselves, from among those either in consultative status with the Council or in relationship with one of the co-sponsoring organizations or on the roster of NGOs dealing with matters pertaining to HIV/AIDS. The Programme Coordinating Board shall formally approve the NGOs nominated. The terms of office of the selected NGOs shall not exceed three years.

383. The arrangements for the participation of NGOs in the work of the Board are outlined in the annex to Council resolution 1995/2.

*Term of office*

384. The term of office of members is three years.

*Reporting procedures*

385. The Board reports to the Council as requested.